UNESCO

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# $85,000,000 Proposed By UN for Technical Development Plan

***SUM SUGGESTED FOR 2 YEARS IS FIRST INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR UNDER-DEVELOPED AREAS. UNESCO SHARE ESTIMATED AT $16,855,500***

A plan to use more than $85,000,000 in two years for technical assistance to under-developed countries has been outlined in a report issued by the United Nations at Lake Success on June 2.

The plan is the United Nations' response to President Truman's call for a "bold new programme" to make the benefits of scientific advances and industrial progress available for the improvement and growth of under-developed areas.

The 328-page report, issued by Secretary-General Trygve Lie, is the co-operative product of the Secretariats of the United Nations and eight Specialized Agencies, and is now being submitted by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council and by the heads of the Specialized Agencies to their respective governing bodies.

[*As this issue of the* Unesco Courier *goes to press, the Executive Board of Unesco is in full session in Paris to consider the technical aid programme and the proposals for Unesco's participation during the coming years.*]

The estimated cost of the technical assistance described in the programme is $35,862,576 for the first year and $50,079,807 for the second year. These figures are in addition to what governments of recipient countries are expected to pay as their part of the cost of the technical assistance that they receive.

Unesco's share in the programme has been estimated at $6,150,000 for the first year and $10,705,500 for the second year.

The proposed cost of the first two year programme submitted by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies may be summarized as follows:

| | First Year $ | Second Year $ |
|---|---|---|
| United Nations | 4,855,500 | 7,643,500 |
| Joint UN-Specialized Agencies projects | 1,084,500 | 1,601,500 |
| International Labour Organization | 4,678,400 | 6,793,500 |
| Food and Agriculture Organization | 9,425,456 | 11,345,383 |
| Unesco | 6,150,000 | 10,705,500 |
| International Civil Aviation Org. | 516,200 | 1,007,400 |
| World Health Organization | 9,152,520 | 10,983,024 |
| Total | 35,862,576 | 50,079,807 |

In addition, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund, and the International Refugee Organization will co-operate in the programme, but do not envisage asking for special funds.

## Local Participation

THE purpose of the programme, the U.N. report states, is to assist under-developed countries to achieve for themselves the material and social benefits of sound, balanced economic development. Realization of this programme will require full use of the scientific and technical advances which have already so changed the economics of more highly developed areas. The report warns, however, that patterns of economic development which fit the economic and social structure of the technically more advanced countries cannot be applied without modification to those which have remained under-developed.

Furthermore, in every country development must be brought about mainly through the efforts of the local population, with the help of domestic resources, and by means of appropriate changes in economic and social structure. If economic development is to achieve its purpose of increasing the security and welfare of the great mass of mankind, its benefits must be widely distributed.

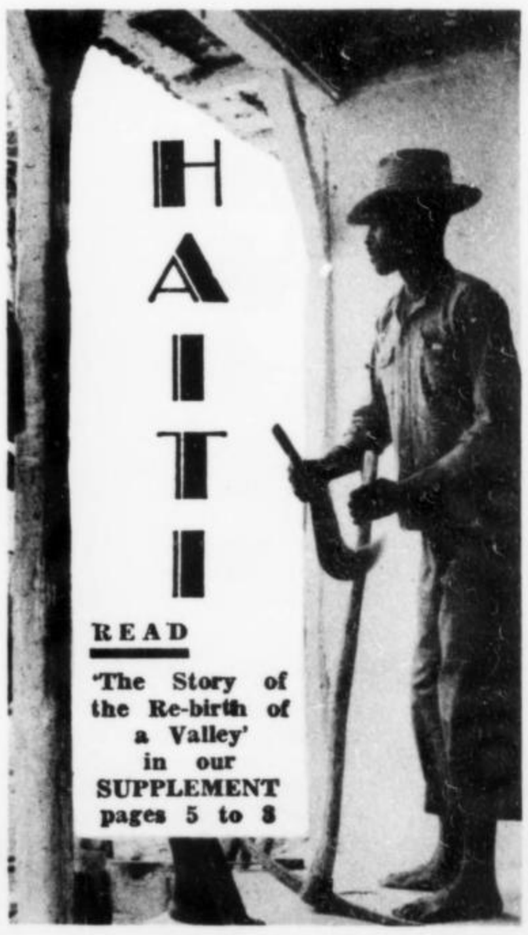
The report notes that the rate of economic development must be fast enough not only to keep up with population growth, but to exceed it by a substantial margin. The amount of scientific and technical knowledge available for this task is constantly increasing. The problem immediately at hand is to organize this knowledge and direct it into the channels where it can produce the speediest and most constructive results.

The report goes on to say that while, in the past, private initiative and capital have in most countries been the principal agents for economic development, today an increased responsibility rests on governments of countries seeking rapid development. For each country the first step in economic development must be a realistic appraisal of its special condition and needs.

## Nature of the Programme

THE report states that the increased role of government initiative and direction in economic development suggests that the provisions of large-scale technical help will usually involve some sort of inter-governmental arrangements. These arrangements will be either on a bilateral basis or through international organizations.

The report adds that a sound international programme must make use of the experience of many nations with different social patterns and cultural traditions and at different stages of development. It lists a certain number of basic requisites for success of the technical assistance programme as follows:



FUND · BANK · FAO · UNESCO · ICAO · BANK · ILO · ECLA
NETWORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROPER ORGANISMES PROPRES AUX NATIONS UNIES
SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS AGENCIES SPECIALISÉES

# $ 85,000,000 PROPOSED For Technical Development

(Continued from Page 1)

◆ 1. A practical approach—development in each country must grow out of that country's particular needs, desires, and potentialities.

◆ 2. Personnel—an adequate supply of qualified experts.

◆ 3. Supplies and equipment—adequate amounts of both.

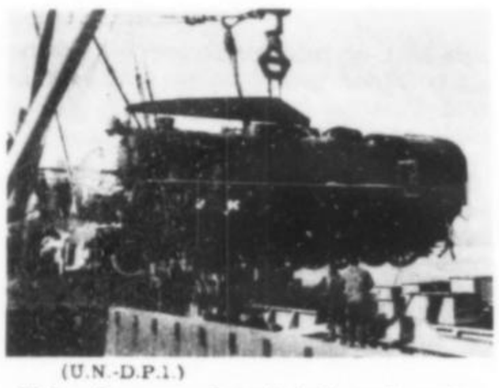
◆ 4. Continuity—expanded technical assistance programmes are essentially long-term undertakings, and need concerted efforts for many years.

◆ 5. A favourable environment—under-developed countries must be willing themselves to take vigorous action to establish the internal conditions upon which sound development depends. The report insists on this responsibility of recipient countries, and adds that obsolete systems of land tenure as well as traditional methods of agriculture may have to be modified.

The report recalls that in a resolution adopted at its Third Session, the General Assembly of the United Nations laid down that technical assistance furnished shall not be a means of foreign economic and political interference in the internal affairs of the country concerned and shall not be accompanied by any consideration of a political nature.

## Fields of Work

A balanced programme of economic development, according to the report, can best be achieved on the basis of a comprehensive development plan, but in many countries economic development may, at the outset, have to be limited to a few activities.



(U.N.-D.P.I.)

**Help for war-devastated and under-developed areas. Here, locomotives are shipped to the Far East under a U.N. scheme.**

All under-developed countries wish to expand and diversify their industrial activities. The adoption of more up-to-date industrial methods will increase the output of goods and promote higher standards of living. Improved agriculture is essential to produce increased quantities of food, raw materials for industry and products for export. Transport and communications must be bettered to promote the mobility of labour and the availability of goods. Basic education and technical training must be coupled with the development of labour practices suitable for a more complex economy. And the maintenance of adequate health conditions is essential to progress in any sound economic development scheme. In all these fields technical assistance is an essential forerunner to economic development.

## Forms of Technical Aid

THE report describes the wide variety of forms technical assistance for economic development may take, such as: technical advisory services; practical demonstrations of modern techniques; provision of improved opportunities for training within the under-developed countries or abroad; dissemination of information.

The report recommends that the administrative committee on co-ordination—composed of the U.N. Secretary-General and the Executive Heads of the Specialized Agencies—establish a central clearance point called the **Technical Assistance Committee (TAC)**, to be made up of a representative of each of the organizations. Organizations would submit their part of the total programme to their own governing bodies in the usual way, for appropriation of funds. Governments seeking advice or technical assistance could approach either individual organizations, or the Secretary of the TAC, who would turn over the request to the appropriate organization.

In connection with the financing of the expanded co-operative programme, the Secretary-General and the Executive Heads of all the interested Specialized Agencies agreed that each Specialized Agency, which considered it necessary, would establish a special budget for technical aid for economic development and would invite its member governments to make contributions to this budget over and above their contributions to its normal budget.

THE second part of the 328-page report describes in detail the kinds of technical assistance which the United Nations and Specialized Agencies can make available. From these descriptions a vivid idea can be had of the almost unlimited range of benefits which can accrue to the world from a well-co-ordinated programme of technical assistance, given the steady and enlightened co-operation of the advanced countries, the recipient countries and the international agencies in a sustained effort over a long period of time.

## United Nations

THE U.N. proposes to focus its programme on fields of activity which are not, or not yet, assigned to any Specialized Agency. These include activities related to manufacturing and extractive industries, control and utilization of water resources, inland road, rail and water transport, as well as certain sectors of the social field such as housing and community planning.

An illustration of the type of activity envisaged is provided by industrial research in tropical and semi-tropical countries where there appears to be enormous scope for experimentation in the use of new raw materials existing in these areas for making textile products, etc.

## I. L. O.

THE kinds of aid which the International Labour Organization proposes to provide cover the relation of economic development policies to labour income and employment, including specifically such problems as training, migration, industrial safety, social security and labour inspection, and labour and social problems of the indigenous populations of Latin-America.

## F. A. O.

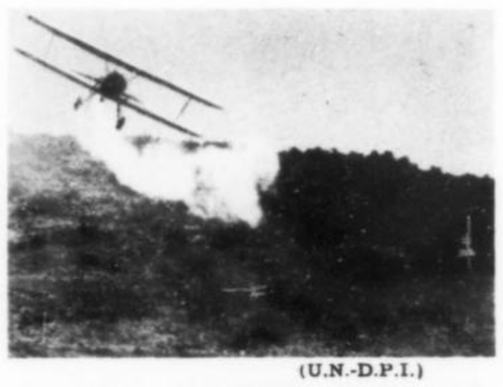
THE Food and Agriculture Organization proposes to provide aid in the fields of agriculture, forestry and forest products, nutrition and food management, rural institution and management, economic and statistical services.

An example of the many projects envisaged by FAO is a campaign to eradicate rinderpest in five to ten years through the use of vaccines. Rinderpest is a major livestock disease in Africa, Asia and the Far East. It destroys annually at least 2 million head of cattle.

## U. N. E. S. C. O.

SINCE it is recognized that increased economic development lends momentum to increased educational opportunity, Unesco proposes to give technical assistance in the fields which its experience has already shown under-developed countries are likely to require. These fields are: education (elementary, adult and technical); production and use of materials for education, including mass communication materials; the technical needs of the press, radio and film; training of teachers and other specialized personnel; planning and organizing of scientific research and training laboratories; and protection of national cultures.

Among the many projects being considered by Unesco is one which recommends the establishment of scientific laboratories to conduct technical research on available natural resources, as well as to use such laboratories as training centres to educate local personnel in modern scientific methods.



(U.N.-D.P.I.)

**Air Force for Health. In its anti-malaria drive, WHO uses planes for spraying unhealthy swamps to rid them of disease-carrying mosquitoes.**

## A Co-operative Project

## I. C. A. O.

THE International Civil Aviation Organization would provide help in carrying out surveys to determine a country's air transport needs, to aid in the design, construction and installation of aerodromes and air navigation facilities, and help devise operational standards.

## W. H. O.

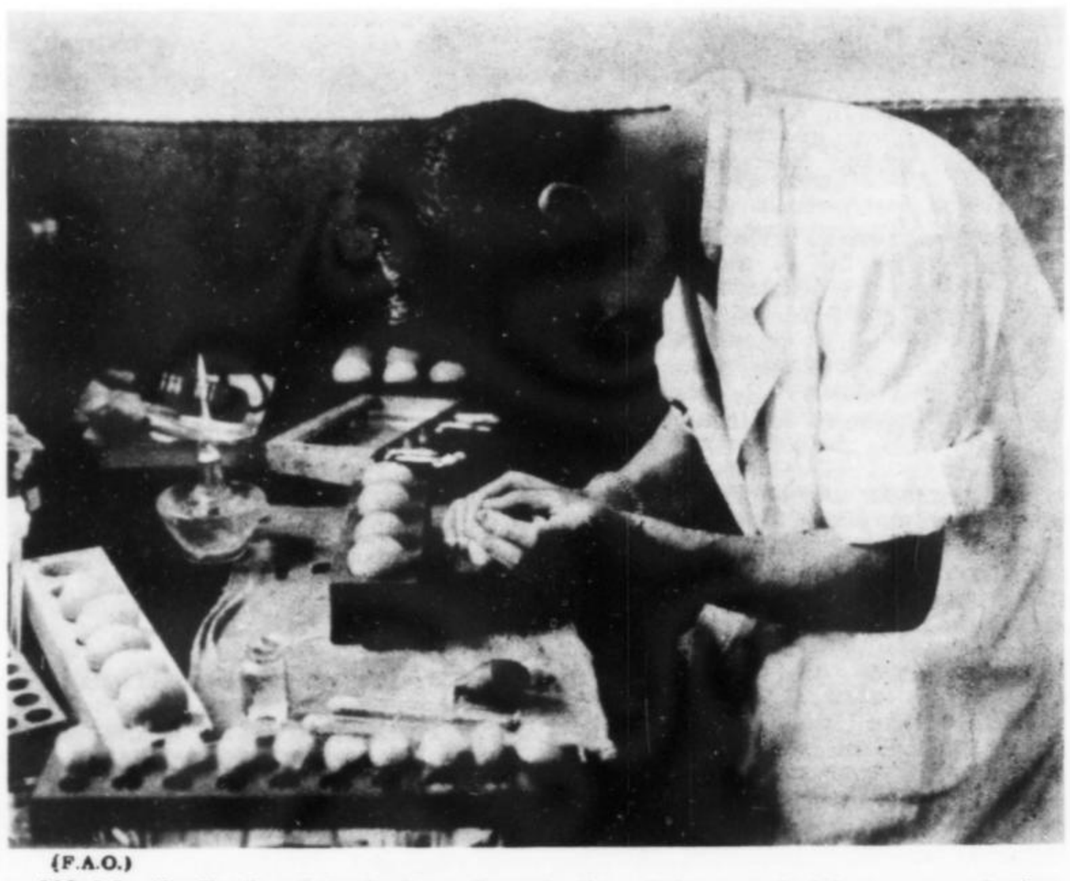
THE World Health Organization has drawn up a programme of work relating to health demonstration areas, malaria, maternal and child health, environmental sanitation, mental health, venereal diseases, tuberculosis, public health administration, nutrition, cholera and other diseases, technical training of medical personnel, research on antibiotics, medical literature, and teaching equipment.

THE great task of raising the standard of living of the under-developed countries of the world is a responsibility to which the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies have already applied themselves within the limitations of the resources so far placed at their disposal for the purpose. What has been achieved so far has been useful, but falls far short of the need.

On March 4 of this year, the Economic and Social Council, on the initiative of the United States delegate and in pursuance of the Fourth Point of President Truman's inaugural address, adopted a resolution requesting the Secretary-General of U.N. to prepare "a comprehensive plan for an expanded co-operative programme of technical assistance for economic development through the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies, paying due attention to questions of social nature which directly condition economic development", and to set forth "methods of financing such a programme including special budgets", as well as "ways of co-ordinating the planning and execution of the programme".

In response to this resolution, Mr. Trygve Lie at once entered into direct consultations with the Executive Heads and Deputy Heads of the I.L.O., F.A.O., Unesco, I.C.A.O., W.H.O., I.R.O., the International Bank, and the Monetary Fund.

The report issued as a result of these discussions stresses that progress in economic development must be measured in decades rather than in years, and that the technical assistance projects described in the programme are merely a pattern for future action. The programme does not claim to provide an overnight solution for the economic problems of under-developed countries, but is intended to help those countries to help themselves in developing their resources and their productive capacity. Its success, the report adds, in the long run will depend in large measure upon the support given to it by the under-developed countries themselves. Throughout the process, the domestic contribution by countries receiving technical assistance will have to be much larger than any external aid they may be given, and it will be expected that these countries will create the conditions under which the technical assistance given can be made effective.



(F.A.O.)

**Aided by the Food and Agriculture Organization, Chinese technicians are producing the new rinderpest vaccine at a laboratory near Nanking.**

# Experts Review Unesco Programme In Germany; Suggest Expansion

### *POLISH REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSES RESERVATIONS*

**LAST month, while the Big Four Foreign Ministers were meeting in the Rose Palace in Paris to discuss the political future of Germany, another meeting was taking place only a few streets away on the educational, cultural and scientific future of Germany.**

**This second meeting brought together for the first time members of a committee of experts on Germany called by Dr. Jaime Torres Bodet, Director-General of Unesco, to review the work already done by Unesco in Germany and to submit their recommendations concerning Unesco's future activities in Germany.**

**The committee formulated a series of recommendations which Dr. Torres Bodet is submitting in a report to the Unesco Executive Board for consideration at its meeting this month.**

Among these recommendations for future Unesco action in Germany the committee called for fellowship opportunities for Germans to study abroad. the extension of Unesco's Book Coupon Scheme to Germany, participation of German scholars and teachers in text-book revision programmes, and German individuals and institutions to participate in Unesco's work in Germany.

Before drawing up its suggestions the committee reviewed Unesco's past work in Germany following the decision of Unesco's Beirut Conference to extend part of its programme to Germany. In order to execute this work, a Unesco office has been established in Stuttgart under the direction of Dr. J.W.R. Thompson, Unesco's Specialist on German questions. Two other Unesco Offices are now being set up in western Germany to ensure adequate execution of Unesco's programme.

Their main functions are to maintain a link between Unesco and appropriate individuals and institutions in Germany and to act as Unesco information centres in the Western Zone.

Unesco's role as a liaison agency, supplying both its Member States and Germany with information on the present possibilities of a two-way flow of cultural contacts and exchanges, was emphasized by Dr. Torres Bodet, when he addressed the committee at Unesco House on May 27.

"By arousing German interest in the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies inside Germany", said Dr. Torres Bodet, "Unesco can materially contribute to the guidance of those minds in Germany who are seeking a future, other than in the aggressive nationalism which has twice led their country to disaster.

"By keeping Germany informed of existing facilities for the exchange of men, ideas and intellectual works across the frontiers," Dr. Torres Bodet added, "Unesco will help to bring Germany out of the isolation into which she plunged herself. By its presence there it will strengthen those elements inside Germany who are fighting for the principals laid down in our Constitution."

Dr. Torres Bodet emphasized that Unesco's programme for Germany had not been conceived as a substitution for the efforts being made by the occupying powers, or those efforts of certain of Germany's neighbour states to re-establish relations with German intellectual circles.

He expressed the hope that the efforts begun by Unesco in 1947 to establish relations with the Soviet Zone authorities would enable Unesco to extend its contacts to the whole of Germany.

As the first step in its new programme. Unesco undertook the wide distribution of its publications and documents in order to make its aims and achievements known to German individuals, cultural groups, libraries, universities, newspapers, educational and cultural journals. Already a selection of reading material has been sent to some forty-six German libraries where it is available to the general public. The Unesco Courier, for example, is being widely circulated in western Germany where the weekly radio programme, "Unesco World Review" has been sent to all radio stations.

In his report to the Executive Board on Unesco's present work, Dr. Torres Bodet states that four Unesco publications, translated into German, "which appeared particularly suitable for wider distribution in Germany" will shortly be ready for distribution. These are : "The Constitution of Unesco," "Unesco, What it is...", "Message to Youth," and "Work Camps for Peace." At the same time Unesco has extended into Germany its activities concerning teaching about the United Nations.

Unesco's world-wide studies and plans for improvement of text-books and teaching materials are now being expanded to include Germany, where new text-books are progressively being published. An important effect of this work has been the dissipation of a widespread misapprehension among the Germans that the text-book revision programme was aimed exclusively at Germany. The

Drawing by Gustave Friese. Reprinted from German publication "Horizont"

realization that Unesco's plan is intended to assist all countries to improve their text-books has helped considerably in the work.

Another Unesco activity has been the introduction of the international survey of the opportunities that exist for the exchange of persons. Copies of the Unesco publication "Study Abroad" which lists international fellowships, scholarships and educational exchange have already been sent to higher education institutions in Germany.

Germany is also included in the "Way of Life" series and the study of tensions which Unesco is carrying out in a number of countries. These studies are intended to throw light on such problems as the influences which may, on the one hand, favour international understanding, or conversely, foster aggressive nationalism.

German specialists are now being invited to attend conferences called by Unesco. Several German school principals came to Paris in April to attend a meeting of the heads of international schools and German experts on adult education will be present at the International Conference on Adult Education which opens in Denmark this month.

These are some of the activities which have been carried out by Unesco in 1949.

While recognizing the importance and value of this work, the committee felt that the Germans themselves should be encouraged to write and publish articles in Germany on questions concerning Unesco's aims and work.

In addition to recommending the introduction of Unesco's Book Coupon Scheme into Germany, it considered that the book exchange programme should be broadened to enable German institutions to receive free publications.

An important development in the increasing of book exchanges between Germany and other countries took place on May 1 last, when, as reported in the May issue of the Courier, the first book exchange centre for western Germany was opened at Bad Godesberg.

Another of the committee's recommendations was that the details of the Goethe anniversary celebrations planned in many parts of the world this year, be made widely known in Germany, in order to demonstrate the importance the entire world attaches to the principles associated with Goethe's name.

Financial support for Unesco's activities in Germany from German sources was also urged by the committe in view of the fact that financial assistance for Unesco projects in its Member States comes chiefly from sources within those countries.

During the general discussion of the report and recommendations of the Committee some reservations were expressed by M. Victor Mencel, the Polish representative. He stated that he endorsed those recommendations which had been conceived and which would be applied in accordance with certain principles.

Among these principles were the democratic unity of Germany and unity and agreement among the four occupying powers as a condition essential to peace in Germany and peace of Europe ; and priority, in Unesco's work for countries ravaged by Nazi aggression was a matter which, in the case of cultural work in Germany, required financing by the Germans thenselves.

The final decision concerning Unesco's future activities in Germany will lie with Unesco's General Conference, acting on the proposals of the Executive Board.

Another meeting of the German Experts Committee is scheduled to be held in Paris just prior to the opening of Unesco's General Conference in September.

**Reconstruction from zero. Young Germans helping to rebuild the shattered ruins of a town in Western Germany.**


2. INTERNATIONALE JUGENDKUNDGEBUNG
2nd INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS
2e MANIFESTATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA JEUNESSE

**Germany's hope for the future depends largely on its younger generation. Above German youngsters meet those of other nations at the 2nd International Youth Congress held in Munich, last year.**

## Unesco Helps Restore Ex-German Libraries

FORMER German libraries in Italy which were damaged during the war and later closed down, are now being restored for the benefit of students and scholars, thanks to a recent grant of 5.000 dollars provided by Unesco.

This grant will be used by the International Union of Institutes of Archaeology, History and History of Art, to bring the four libraries — the Biblioteca Hertziana, the ex-German Archaeological Insitute Library and the the former Prussian Historical Institute, all in Rome and the ex-German Art-Historical Institute Library in Florence — into full use again.

Today, Unesco has given a total of 13,000 dollars to help these institutions which will eventually constitute a valuable aid for studies of Mediterranean history, art and archaeology.

# *Major Campaign to Cut Frontier Barriers to Education Exchange*

BY

**Julian BEHRSTOCK**

*Acting Head, Free Flow Division, Unesco*

**A MAJOR campaign to reduce economic obstacles to the free flow of information is now being undertaken by Unesco. The campaign is directed against quotas, Customs duties, currency controls and other restrictions which to-day impede the passage across frontiers of educational, scientific and cultural materials.**

**Unesco's objective is to enable the reader in Rome to purchase a book from New York, the museum in Mexico City to obtain a painting from Paris, the schools, libraries and scientific laboratories of every country to secure the equipment they need from abroad, despite the difficult post-war economic conditions which hamper international trade.**

This attempt to promote international trade in the materials of education, science and culture embraces many different points in the Organization's current programme. Greater exchange of these materials through the channels of trade can assist less developed countries to fill their needs. It can, for example, ease some of the critical shortages of mass communications equipment in certain countries, as revealed in the 1947-1949 Technical Needs Surveys undertaken by Unesco. It can also help schools to rebuild and restock, and war-devastated libraries to replenish their shelves. Most of all, it fosters mutual understanding by giving people in each country greater access to the ideas and attainments of other countries.

In carrying out this programme, Unesco since the beginning of the year has dispatched to its Member States two draft international agreements and a series of ten suggestions for remedial action. It has placed a far-reaching proposal before an international trade conference and worked out plans for continuing activity in conjunction with the competent economic organizations of the United Nations. Unesco's Book Coupon Scheme, extended and given additional funds, is being adapted to cover the purchase of educational films and scientific equipment, as well as books.

Following is a summary of the action Unesco is taking in the economic field.

### Annecy Trade Conference

TO a 34-nation international trade conference, in progress at Annecy, France, Unesco has submitted a proposal that Customs duties should be reduced or eliminated on educational, scientific and cultural materials. A list of materials, ranging from equipment for schools to works of art and laboratory apparatus, has been placed before the conference.

After a lively debate, the conference voted to accept the Unesco proposal for the agenda and, subsequently, to set up a seven-nation committee "to examine, in consultation with the representatives of Unesco, the most practical means of studying and formulating solutions of the questions raised." Under the chairmanship of Belgium, the Committee is composed of representatives of France, the United States, United Kingdom, Brazil, Chile and Colombia.

This group will report the results of its investigations and make recommendations to the 34-nation Tariff Negotiations Committee at Annecy. A favourable report can result in specific tariff reductions making it easier for people in many countries to obtain the materials they need from abroad.

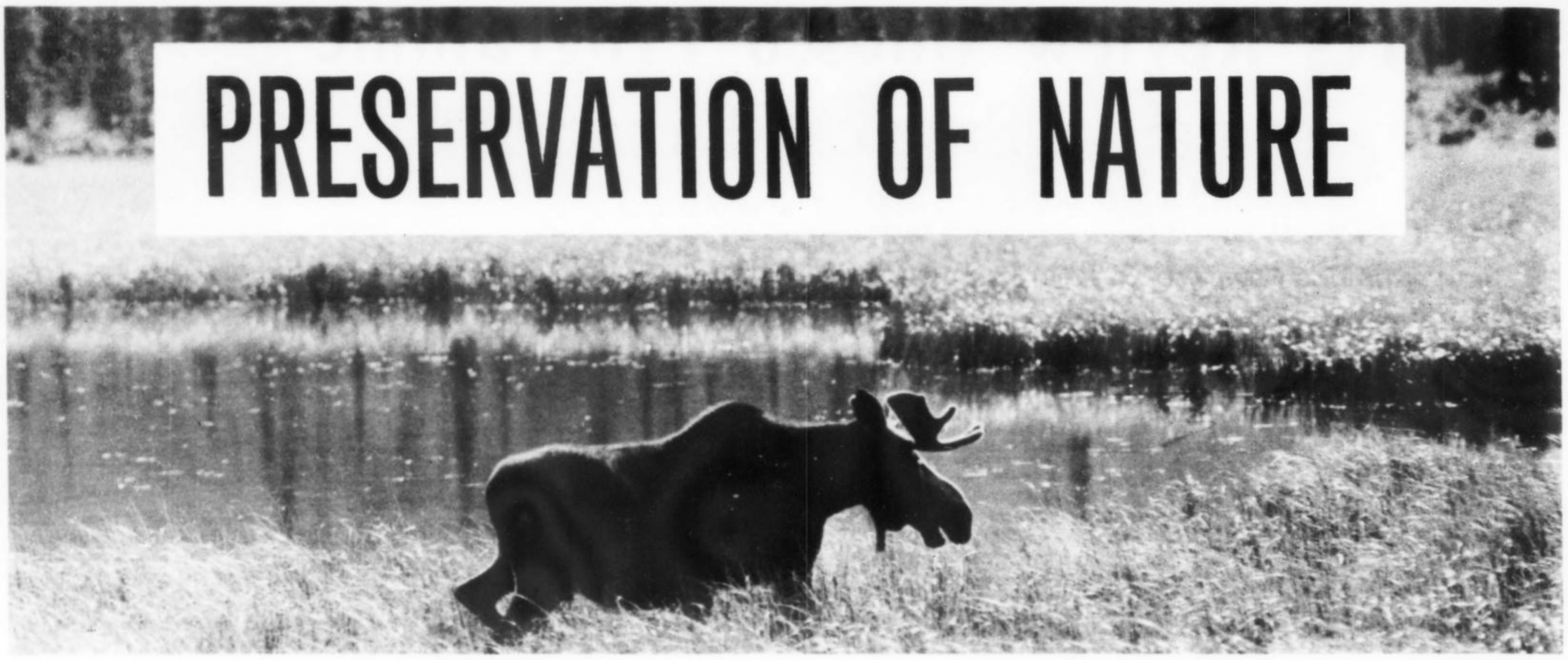
### Economic Commission for Europe

PARALLEL with the effort to reduce Customs duties, and with the same objective, Unesco is seeking to promote international trade pacts. Agreement, has been reached with the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe to work jointly for the inclusion of educational, scientific and cultural materials in trade agreements concluded under the auspices of the ECE.

At the same time, the 14 European Member States of Unesco have been urged to come to ECE meetings prepared to negotiate bilateral or multilateral trade agreements on specific items of scientific and mass communications equipment. The proposal was accompanied by a detailed list of such equipment, based on the production capacities and requirements of the countries concerned.

**(Continued on Page 9)**

# PRESERVATION OF NATURE



***CAN THE WORLD SAVE ITS DECLINING NATURAL RESOURCES FROM DESTRUCTION? CAN DISAPPEARING ANIMAL SPECIES BE SAVED FROM EXTINCTION?***

By **Allain GILLE,** Agricultural Engineer

FIVE years of war have destroyed many of the world's valuable reserves on which man depends for his sustenances. Mines have been flooded, farms ruined, and forests burnt down. But this destruction which the war has brought in its train has merely added to the destruction which man, in peace time was already perpetrating. Even without the war, the problem would have arisen —in hardly less acute form—of how to fill the gap, which is growing every day, between the ever increasing population of the world and its declining resources. The problem, therefore, of the protection, conservation and utilization of nature is one with many facets, and one which international organizations, as well as humble individuals like shepherds and ploughmen, must face.

There is the problem of protecting tropical soils which are being plundered by over-exploitation. There is the task of convincing the inhabitants of the Mediterranean area that every year their goats destroy entire forests. There is the question of discovering fresh sources of energy, or of utilizing those that nature has already given us, such as solar energy or the tides. There is the necessity of protecting species that are threatened with extinction. Whatever the particular problem involved by the protection of nature may be—and such problems are legion—it is of equal concern to manufacturers and peasants, to scientists and artists.

## Two Conferences

Considerable importance, therefore, will be attached to the conference which is to begin on August 17 at Lake Success under the auspices of the United Nations, and at which these problems will be considered.

On August 22 another conference, this time called by the International Union for the Protection of Nature and sponsored by Unesco, will also open at Lake Success. The International Union was created under Unesco's auspices at Fontainebleau, near Paris, last October.

The protection of nature is of real concern to naturalists who wish to preserve intact certain areas known as "natural reserves" or "national parks" where they can study certain animal and vegetable species in their surroundings and thus prevent their destruction.

It will be seen that the two Conferences of the I.U.P.N. and the United Nations are concerned with the same subject—Nature. But the question is not viewed from exactly the same aspect. The United Nations Conference will examine the problems of conservation as applied to natural resources while the Unesco-I.U.P.N. Conference will be concerned more particularly with questions relating to the protection of plant and animal species and soil conservation. But because of their interrelationship, it was felt that they should be held simultaneously, and in the same place.

One of the different ways of avoiding the reduction of natural resources is to teach the nations not to squander them. One of the meetings of the United Nations Conference will therefore be devoted to studying the rôle of education in protection and conservation. As Unesco is the United Nations Specialized Agency for education, the United Nations has invited it to prepare this meeting. The Education and Natural Sciences Departments jointly requested a number of experts to prepare reports on particular facets of the problem, while a survey was carried out by the Departments on the methods of teaching conservation to school children, adults and the scientific world. At the same time the Unesco Fundamental Education Clearing House decided to devote an issue of its periodical "Abstracts and Bibliography" to a study of the best educational works on conservation.

A few specific examples, perhaps, will help to highlight the importance of the two Conferences.

As a result of heavy losses suffered in the war of 1914-1918, the herds of European bison were reduced to a few head only. The complete disappearance of the species was avoided just in time by the creation of the International Society for the Protection of European Bison. The Society did a great deal of work and by 1938 the number of the pure species still remaining was estimated at ninety-six. In spite of losses during the second World War, there were still ninety-three left in 1947 (1).

Before the arrival of Europeans in America there were about fifty-million bison roaming the plains. By 1905 the almost incredible news was received that only five-hundred were left in the whole of the United States. The disappearance of the species was once again avoided, this time by the creation of National Parks. This measure of protection has proved effective and to-day the herds preserved in these parks have risen to about six-thousand head (2).

These examples of destruction are not confined to animal and vegetable species. Other natural products of vital importance to man have been gravely affected. Soil, the basic factor in agriculture, is disappearing through erosion, which works like a cancer on soil that is not properly cared for.

To speak only of wind erosion, 130,000,000 hectares of land in the United States have been affected by dust storms which sweep away the top soil year after year. One of the great hurricanes of 1934 carried off 500,000,000 tons of loose top soil in the states of Nebraska and Dakota. The soil had been eroded, torn up and carried away to a depth of twelve, twenty and twenty-eight inches, actually leaving bare rock in its place (3).

The first question that faces us today is whether the earth can continue to feed us. Many peoples, now that the worst wounds inflicted by the war have been healed, have admittedly recaptured, more or less the pre-war rhythm of life. In the whole of Western Europe for example —excepting Spain—the food problem is by no means as acute as it was. But this tenuous prosperity is a fragile plant, constantly exposed to the menace of bitter winds. Throughout the whole of Asia there are still famines that every year claim millions of dead. The fact is that even if there were an equal distribution of food resources throughout the world, no one could eat quite as much as he wished. We do not, of course, want to achieve equality in misery On the contrary, we want to increase food resources, to make full use of those that nature has given us, and to protect their mainsprings. For in certain respects, men are no longer satisfied with the income they receive from nature. They consume the capital, by destroying it. Or again, they are even unaware of the existence of some of that income, and do not know how to use it.

## Suggestions and Proposals

Four-hundred and fifty scientists have sent to the United Nations Conference for the Conservation and Utilization of Resources (U.N.S.C.C.U.R.) all kinds of suggestions and proposals designed to apply recent discoveries to the exploitation of these resources.

Thus a Canadian scientist, Mr. Hans Lundberg, has furnished a report on the possiblity of conducting mining prospecting by electronic means, from aircraft. Such a process would result in far more extensive and complete prospecting, and would eliminate, especially in the case of inhabited areas, all the present difficulties faced by prospectors. Major Litherland Teed, an Englishman, has reported on the latest refinements in the technique of extracting magnesium from sea water. On another altogether different subject, an agricultural expert from the Belgian Congo has described the system used by the Bantus for conserving tropical forests—a primitive yet particularly ingenious system, which he suggests should be studied by forestry experts in all tropical areas.

The gravest dangers to mankind arise not so much from the problems with which it grapples as from those of which we are unaware. A conference like that of U.N.S.C.C.U.R. has many benefits to confer and much information to impart. It will only succeed fully, however, when its work produces its effect not only on scientists and technicians, but on a wider public. Unesco's function is indeed to bring all men, whose daily occupation puts them in contact with nature, to a full realization of their position in regard to it, and thus to make them use it more wisely.

**Jasper National Park in the Canadian Rockies, is one of the great wild life sanctuaries of North America.** Above, **black bear cub peers into auto for food while two friends stand watch.** (Canadian Nat. Film Bd.)

(1) J. Zabinski. "Le Bison d'Europe", Pro Natura, 1948 (1): pp. 30-32.

(2) F. Osborn. "Our Plundered Planet", Little, Brown & Company, Boston, 1948, p. 64.

(3) R. Furen. "L'Erosion du Sol", Payot, Paris, 1947, p. 150.

SUPPLEMENT

UNESCO

# COURIER

PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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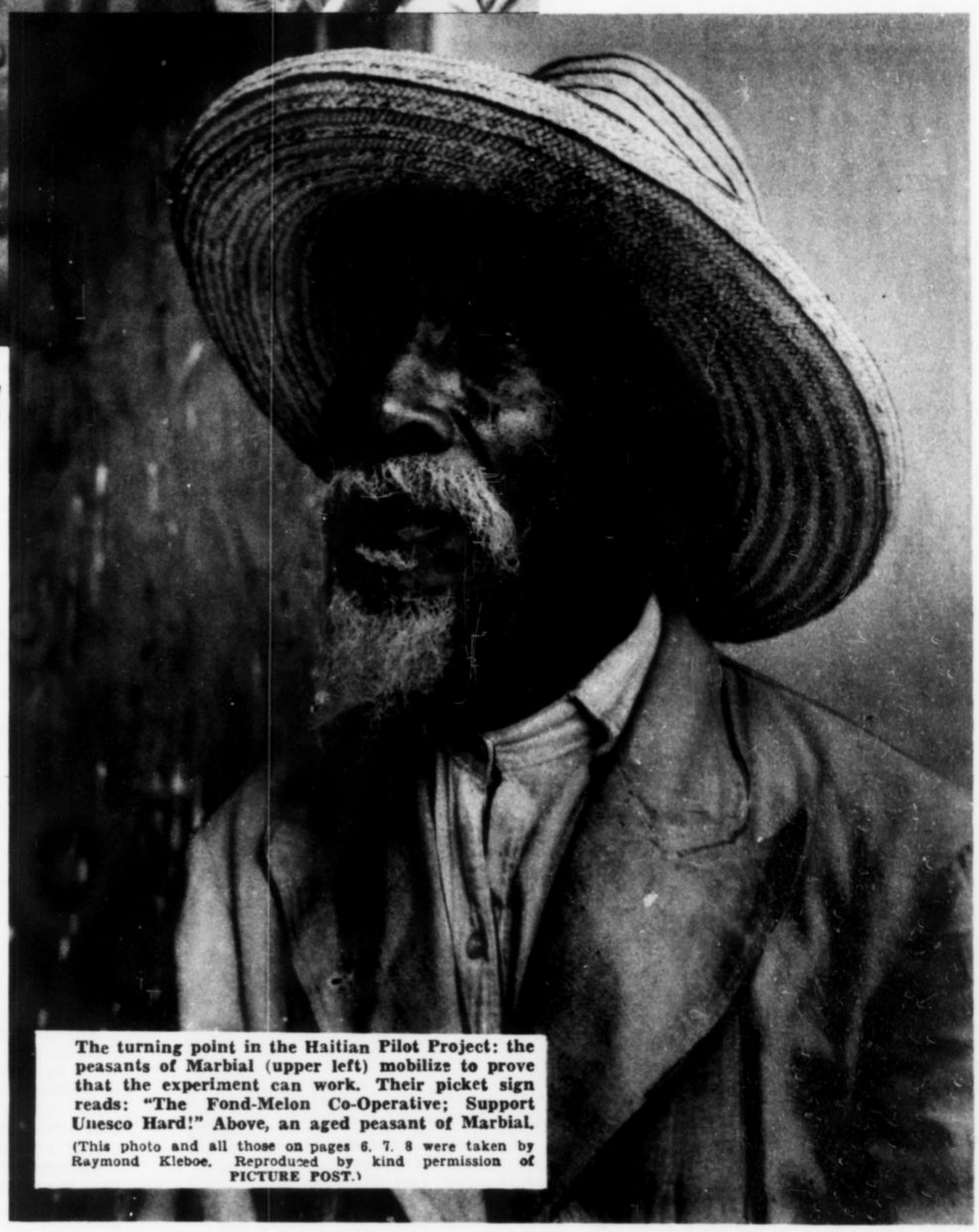
# The Re-birth of A Valley



## *How the Peasants of Marbial Helped Make the Haiti Pilot Project a Success.*

**THIS is a story of an obscure, mountain-bound region in the Caribbean Island of Haiti called the Marbial Valley.**

**In this forgotten, isolated corner of the New World, lying north of the little village of Jacmel on the southern shore of the island, there live some 30,000 peasants of African origin. Afflicted by tropical rainstorms and ruinous droughts, stricken with disease and impoverished by land erosion, they tried to scrape together some semblance of living — or quietly starved. Not famine — which was too common-place — but "extraordinary famine" were the words used by the people of the valley to mark the periods of large-scale starvation. The children were pathetically stunted and diseased.**

**Then, in this region of misery, something happened which gave the people a new hope in life. A new spirit began to blow through the Valley when a Unesco team arrived to set up a fundamental education project to help them overcome their illiteracy, raise their living standards and agricultural productivity and improve their health.**

**This story is filled with ups and downs, with moments of deep dejection and despondency, periods when almost everyone believed that the project would have to be given up as a failure.**

**Now, after two years of continuous struggle, the picture has changed. The Marbial project which might have been called "The Death of a Haitian Valley", has lived and grown.**

**The heroes in this story are certainly the peasants of Marbial themselves, who in the darkest days of the project, demonstrated with huge picket signs reading "Kebe l'Inesko fo" — which in Creole means "Support Unesco hard." Another hero is undoubtedly the social anthropologist on Unesco's staff in Haiti, Dr. Alfred Métraux, who though striken by fever and with slender funds at his disposal, refused to admit defeat and rallied the Marbial peasants to his side.**

**The Marbial experiment began as a lone Unesco-Haiti venture just over two years ago. Today it is a joint international undertaking, with the World Health Organization, the Viking Fund, the Rockefeller Foundation and other organizations taking part.**

**The** Unesco Courier **presents the story of a Haitian Valley.**

**The turning point in the Haitian Pilot Project: the peasants of Marbial (upper left) mobilize to prove that the experiment can work. Their picket sign reads: "The Fond-Melon Co-Operative; Support Unesco Hard!" Above, an aged peasant of Marbial.**

(This photo and all those on pages 6, 7, 8 were taken by Raymond Kleboe. Reproduced by kind permission of PICTURE POST.)

# 'Kêbé l'Inesko Fò !'

WHEN you leave the airfield at Port au Prince you step into a world that is African. The open shops in the market place might be any typical African town.

The peasants driving their donkeys into market seem to be almost pure African. The Ministers of the government and the President himself are proud to be descendants of Africans who were brought to Haiti as slaves by the Spaniards and who later fell under French rule, then defied Napoleon and, in 1804, proclaimed the free Republic of Haiti.

The spirit of freedom is still proudly maintained in Haiti, one of the three independent countries of the world entirely governed by black people. The Haitians look back with pride at their national heroes, Toussaint l'Ouverture and Dessaline.

In Port au Prince, one is conscious of a strongly French culture. French is the official language of the country and the people speak it with a pleasant musical accent. But once over the high mountains which encompass Port au Prince one is in a different land. The language of the country peasants is Creole.

In Port au Prince there are attractive houses on the side of the hills, fine hotels, swimming baths, a large Catholic cathedral and a Presidential palace, all looking out over a brilliant blue inlet of the Caribbean.

Beyond it on all sides are fine ranges of mountains. After tropical rains they are brilliant green with new vegetation. In the dry season, brown is the predominant colour, reminiscent of the semi-desert lands of North Africa.

When one gets out of Port au Prince into the mountains one enters a different Haiti. Here the peasants live scattered over the steep mountain sides in their humble little shacks, each one on his own small patch of cultivation.

# THE STORY OF THE HAITI 'PILOT

## THE PROBLEMS OF HAITI

HERE too are the real problems of Haiti : over-population, tropical disease, deforestation, acute soil erosion, and illiteracy.

Haiti is the smallest of the Latin-American Republics, with an area of some ten-thousand square miles, but it has the highest density of population, calculated at more than three hundred and seventy-six per square mile.

A high proportion of the inhabitants is afflicted by a variety of tropical diseases. Malaria, tropical ulcers, intestinal worms, and the contagious skin disease known as yaws, are common afflictions.

The pressure of increasing population forced the peasant to chop down the tropical forest on almost every avaible patch of land in order to grow food. But even this was not enough to feed his family. The Haitian farmer courageously and grimly undertook the cultivation of slopes so steep that a goat could hardly climb them. Using the machete and primitive hoe he scratched the surface of his fields, often situated on slopes at a sixty degree angle, where to keep himself from falling he was forced to attach himself with a rope ! His efforts, however, were often condemned to failure. With the first tropical rains, the loose top soil was washed down into the valley and out to sea.

Haiti, which was once considered the richest of the French Colonies, faced acute and increasing poverty, reflected in the misery and starvation of the peasants.

In addition, over the whole Republic the rate of illiteracy was over eighty percent. In the present areas it was normally well over ninety percent. This meant not only the inability to read and write but ignorance of basic scientific principles of agriculture and of the conservation of resources, and above all, ignorance of elementary hygiene.

**Columbus dropped anchor off the Island of Haiti, which he called Hispaniola, on December 6, 1492. Top map shows point where he landed, with southern "tongue" where Valley of Marbial is located, north of tiny Port of Jacmel. Bottom map: sketched on the spot by Haitian technician, shows Marbial Valley and existing and projected water wells. Unesco Centre is located in middle of Valley.**

## ORIGIN OF THE PILOT PROJECT

THESE were the problems which led Dumarsais Estimé. Haiti's vigorous and popular president, to turn to Unesco and propose that a "Pilot Project" in fundamental education be started in his country.

The site chosen by the Haitian Government for the new 'Pilot Project" was the rural section of Marbial, in the valley of the Gosseline River in the south of Haiti. The Gosseline, which rises in the high mountains of Gros Morne and flows for some twenty miles through the rugged foothills of Marbial, is a mountain torrent which shrinks to a chain of muddy pools during the dry season. The population of the valley has been estimated at about thirty thousand peasants, living scattered over the steep mountain slopes in isolated shacks. Hovewer, this is only a rough estimate because no census has ever been taken and no statistics exist. There are no villages in the Marbial Valley and its only town is the little port of Jacmel, where the Gosseline runs out into the sea.

## FRUSTRATION AND DESPAIR

UNESCO accepted the Haitian "Pilot Project" with enthusiasm. But this initial enthusiasm was soon destined to frustration.

First there was a period of misunderstanding, due to long-distance correspondence—some of which never arrived. Then, inaccurate articles appeared in American and Haïtian newspapers, stating that Unesco was putting two-hundred thousand dollars into a project of fundamental education for the Marbial Valley. This was more than the total budget avaible to Unesco for its fundamental education programme for all its forty Member States.

Late in 1947, three members of Unesco's staff visited Haiti and made a brief survey of the Marbial Valley. What they found in the valley shocked them deeply. Unesco had been prepared for "tough sledding" in meeting the region's educational problems, but Marbial was obviously a "problem area" of the worst kind.

The over-population, the tropical diseases, the deforestation and erosion were so serious that it was patently evident that any project to improve conditions in the valley implied something more than education as such. Fighting tropical diseases and reinstating a declining agriculture were problems in which the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization were competent rather than Unesco.

In November 1947, Unesco's General Conference, meeting in Mexico City, approved the "Haitian Pilot Project" but voted to seek the co-operation of the United Nations and other Specialized Agencies in sending experts in fields outside Unesco's competence to work in the field with the director of the project. Unesco agreed to provide a director and pay twenty percent of its estimated cost of sixty-six thousand dollars for the first year. The Haitian Government promised another twenty percent and negotiations were begun to obtain the remainder of the necessary funds from other organizations.

## THE PROJECT TAKES SHAPE

THE Head of Unesco's Fundamental Education Division had visited Haiti to discuss the project with representatives of the government. Back at headquarters in Paris, the Secretariat set to work drafting a programme of action for the project, based on these discussions. This included plans for primary schooling for children and general adult education for men and women to combat ignorance and illiteracy ; language teaching ; health education and medical services ; agricultural and veterinary education ; community cultural activities based on a rudimentary library, museum and arts centre ; and the establishment of small industries and rural crafts as well as the organization of co-operatives.

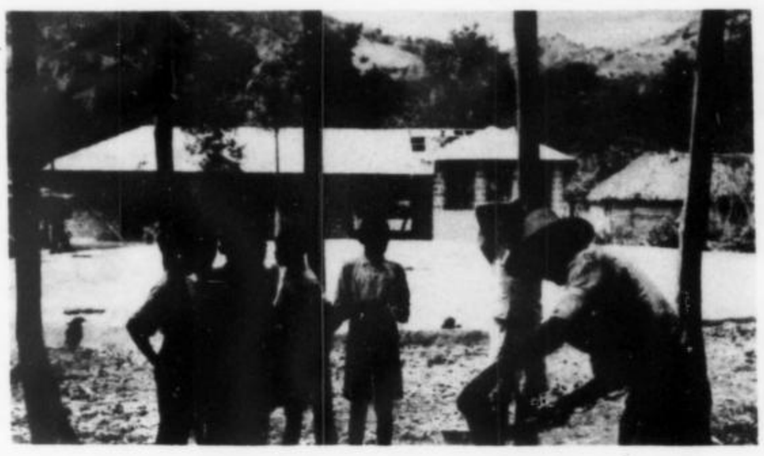
This programme would be integrated into an over-all community education scheme with Unesco working with the Haitian Government and education authorities. Unesco saw its task as a double challenge : raising the social and economic level of the community through education and at the same time the training of Haitian teachers and workers so that the project might become self-supporting as rapidly as possible. It was obvious, however, that this goal would not be reached in less than five years.

## BASIC SURVEY

THE first principle underlined in Unesco's plan was that any project for education and material improvement must be based on a thorough knowledge of the physical environment and the people for whom it was destined.

Unesco's initial task, therefore, was to undertake a "Basic Survey" to provide data on which the educational programme could be realistically based, and a measuring line against which progress could be assessed in a few year's time.

**Teaching the people of Marbial to be self-suppor... sisal and palm fibres for mats. Young man ...gh connection with the Co-op...**



**Reading from left to right (1). Creole peasants post up first "Rout Ounesko-Marbial" sign on newly made road (2). A typical peasant home in the Marbial Valley (3). Peasants on their way to market with (middle distance) the Gosseline River and (beyond), terraced hillside (4). Work going ahead on the Unesco Community Centre; large concrete circle is for the foundation of the community hall (5). M. Bonhomme, Haitian Government representative (seated) and (on his left), Mr. Berrouet, an agronomist, discussing agricultural problems with Marbial peasants (6). Dr. Metraux, American anthropologist, talks to a peasant woman on her way to market.**

# T PROJECT'

To head the Survey Team in Haiti, Unesco called on Dr. Alfred Métraux, an American anthropologist of Swiss origin, who left the United Nations' Department of Social Affairs to join Unesco.

In April 1948, Dr. Métraux arrived in Port au Prince, formed his team of field workers and set to work in Marbial Valley.

Another eminent anthropologist, Dr. Melville Herskovits had written a well-known book entitled "Life in a Haïtian Valley." When Dr. Métraux had been in the valley a short time he reported back to Unesco that his survey might have to be called "The Death of a Haïtian Valley."

The team was next to despair at the formidable problems that faced it. Access into the valley was cut off for many days by tropical storms Only a rough track ran up the stony bed of the river and it was often impassible even by jeep. There was no drinking water, no houses for the staff except a few broken-down, leaky peasants shacks, with no sanitation whatever. And one by one, the members of the team, including Dr. Métraux fell victim to malaria.

It was obvious that these physical handicaps would have to be overcome before any programme of education could be started. It began to look as though the Pilot Project might die even before it could be brought effectively to life.

In July of the same year, Unesco asked Dr. Frederick Rex, an American fundamental education specialist on Unesco's staff, to go to Haiti. His report confirmed the pessimistic view already expressed by Dr. Métraux.

Writing to the **Unesco Courier**, Dr. Rex said: "What I saw and heard made me feel that the undertaking was impossible. The ravages of floods, erosion, imprudent and excessive cultivation had left but little earth for the poor peasants of the Marbial Valley to provide their daily bread.

"The rains had failed and some families had begun to eat the seed corn that was all they had to provide the next year's crops. A few wild mangoes were often the only food a family could offer in exchange for a cup of millet or corn. Seven out of ten people had malaria. The swollen stomachs and the spindly legs of the children spoke of hookworm and malnutrition. Yaws, with its horrible disfiguring effects was apparently common".

It looked as though the project in Marbial Valley might have to be abandoned, or a new site chosen, since it was no part of Unesco's work to carry out a majo relief job.

Learning of this possibility of abandoning the project, Dr. Métraux, who had doggedly carried on his work in spite of his illness, dispatched a letter to Unesco in which he wrote: "We cannot pull out from Haiti... we cannot abandon these people. If we do, we shall break their spirit completely... Whatever has been done in the field of education will collapse. This will be a complete disaster... The Unesco Pilot Project is an experience which is worth all our energy".

## PEASANTS SPRING TO ACTION

IT was at this point that peasants of Marbial sprang into action and practically changed the face of the valley.

They too heard the rumours that Unesco might abandon them. They called emergency meetings of their local co-operative associations. These co-operatives, known in the local Creole as "Koumbites", serve for mutual help in tasks beyond the capacity of one man and his family. Despite the fact that they were starving, they rallied to Dr. Métraux and Dr. Rex and went to work.

They built the first all-year road to the town of Jacmel. They sank a well forty feet from the river bed to get pure drinking water. They brought in a well-digger from Port au Prince to dig more wells. The Marbial market which had been halfway in the river bed was recontructed on higher ground with dry gravelled lanes and little stalls. The donkeys, horses and animals for sale or slaughter were confined in a corral along the river front. A small open-air slaughter house was constructed of concrete. The co-operatives painted a big sign in Creole over the market gate: "Sanitary Market of Marbial constructed by UNESCO".

The peasants, with the aid of a Health Service technician, drained the swamps, tracked down breeding grounds of malarial mosquitoes and sprayed them with D.D.T.A small dispensary was opened with a doctor and a local medical assistant for the free treatment of disease and the distribution of medicines. The dispensary served the peasants and their livestock alike.

Twenty-eight young women learned to weave native cotton on a hand-loom. On their small hand-made looms they learned to weave sisal and palm fibers for mats used for ladies' sandals.

An oven was built for the construction of cups, saucers, plates and bowls.

For the school children an emergency feeding programme was begun which gave a substantial midday meal to four-hundred children weekly.

A community centre was established. A small vegetable "nursery" was started to encourage the production of food stuffs and the improvement of local varieties of corn, egg-plant and beans.

In September 1948 ten education centres were teaching old and young in the Valley to read and write in Creole. Some of the newly literate even began to study French. Soon a local newspaper appeared, handwritten and illustrated with simple crayon drawings, through the initiative of a few members of the Co-operatives and was distributed through the Unesco office staff. Now, the newspaper is actually being printed. It carries all the local news of the Valley—births, deaths, marriages, letters of complaint to the editor, and a section on agriculture and health week. There are still not enough copies to go around so the school boys and girls read it aloud their eager parents.

## A FAMOUS SITE

BY the month of October 1948, Dr. Métraux was able to write to Unesco: "Marbial has become a famous site. More and more people come to visit it. Last month, the director of rural education sent to Marbial twenty-one school teachers to get some elementary training in anthropology and field methods... Our modest hut has been transformed into a fairly roomy structure. The clinic has been more than successful and is already too small for the hundreds of patients who flock to it...

"However, it is in the schools where changes are the most striking. Not only has attendance doubled, but the behaviour of the children is different..."

On October 30,1948, Dr. Rex wrote to Unesco: "The tide of fortune of the Unesco Pilot Project... seems to have turned for the better. Before the end of the year, conditions and facilities will be right for the establishment of specific educational activities which may be of great interest to other fundamental education schemes facing similar adverse conditions at the outset... confidence has been established among the peasants of the Marbial Valley that their miserable prospects of last summer can be changed by joint and co-operative efforts..."

## U.N. MISSION ARRIVES

THAT the Haiti Pilot Project might become more than just a Unesco-Marbial Valley experiment became evident as early in July of last year when President Estimé appealed to the United Nations' Department of Economic Affairs to carry out a full survey of the economic, agricultural, health and educational conditions and needs of the entire Republic. When the United Nations accepted this proposal, Unesco appointed Dr. Rex as its representative on the Mission.

Last October, under the leadership of the Swedish sociologist, Dr. Ansgar Rosenborg, and assisted by experts from FAO, WHO and the Monetary Fund, the United Nations Mission of Technical Assistance to Haiti, began a full-scale survey of the island. At the request of Unesco it undertook a special study of the Marbial Valley.

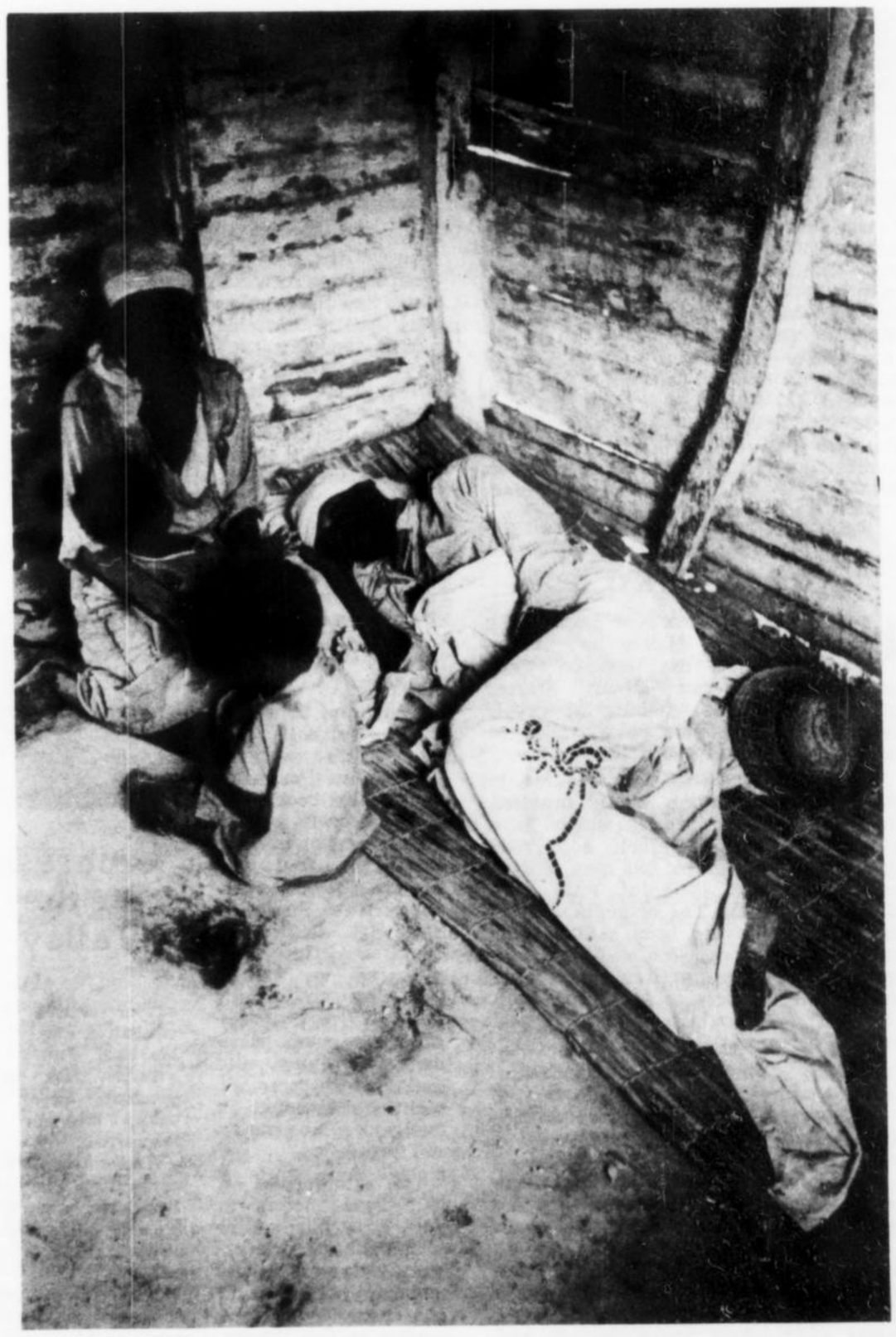
In its report, the Mission pointed out that although the difficulties of the Marbial Valley had not been under estimated, the efforts of the local peasants had been so remarkable that the project should certainly be carried through. The Mission even went further and recommended that the Marbial project should be fitted into a wider health and agricultural improvement scheme for the whole watershed of the Gosseline River, (of which the Marbial area represents only the middle part). They proposed that the health scheme should be based on the small local hospital at Jacmel, with a rural clinic at the Unesco Centre in Marbial and that the training of health and agricultural community workers should be carried out as part of the fundamental education programme in Marbial.

## ENTHUSIASM HIGH

TODAY, throughout the Marbial Valley an extensive fundamental education programme is under way.

**Continued on Page 8)**

elf-supporting. Young girl (left) learning to weave man (right) is being paid for work he has done in the Co-operative project.



**Poverty and disease in the Marbial Valley. The Unesco Project spells new hope for this family which lives close to the Unesco Centre.**

# EDUCATION For HEALTH

## *The Story Of the Haiti 'Pilot Project'*

Today, too, the eagerness of the Haitian peasants to provide their children with an education is such, that they have actually had to be restrained! Only last month, Dr. Métraux reported that a young Haitian architect, named Mangonès, was designing a set of new school buildings in the Haitian tradition. Unesco flew a number of designs on microfilm to Mangonès, showing tropical schools in Brazil, Mexico and Africa. But the enthusiasm to start building immediately was so great among the Marbial people that it was only with difficulty that the laying of the foundations could be postponed until the final plans had been accepted!

In addition to this building already undertaken, plans are being made for constructing another rural school and a training centre for fundamental education workers. The original school is now equipped with blackboards, and locally made benches and tables. Practical courses are being given in hygiene, agriculture and stock-raising, basket-making, weaving and carpentry.

Now that they are getting better food every day, the change in the children is striking. The gloom and sadness are gone and have been replaced by laughter and eargerness to play. Their games are a mixture of children's "rondes" from France and traditional African games.

Marbial children learning to read.

For the parents, adult education centres have been set up in the Valley. Often these centres have been tiny huts made of no more than banana leaves. But it was from these humble buts that seventy peasants have proudly emerged to accept their new literacy diplomas for their studies in Haitian Creole.

**The typical young Haitian girl (above left) presents a vivid contrast to woman of Marbial (above, centre) whose face is disfigured by the affects of yaws, a disease rampant in the Valley. The parents of the twin babies (above right) were paying the local witch doctor to save the life of one of the babies thought to be growing at the expense of the other who was dying.**

WHEN fundamental education first came into being as a part of the programme of Unesco, it was agreed that provision should be made in Pilot Projects for library and museum services. Haiti, with its vivid traditions of folk art and visual and aural expression, was particularly well suited to an experiment of this kind.

Museums and libraries have recently developed techniques of direct approach to ear and eye which are entirely suitable for fundamental education, using models and charts to convey essential ideas to a largely illiterate community. Use can also be made of films of static filmstrips, of sound recordings, music, storytelling, drama groups and specially prepared exhibitions.

This is an educational technique which has been successfully developed by popular museums and libraries in more privileged countries but has seldom been applied to illiterate peoples Here, the Haiti Pilot Project has pioneering work to do.

Last year, Unesco approached the Rockefeller Foundation for a grant-in-aid of seventy-five hundred dollars to enable Mademoiselle Yvonne Oddon, an anthropologist and librarian of the Musée de l'Homme in Paris, to study the cultural missions and popular museums and libraries in Mexico and the United States where these techniques were being applied.

Miss Oddon collected information and sample materials which would help the field workers in the Haiti Project to apply these new museum and library techniques. She studied methods of preparing filmstrips and educational films, educational posters, mobile exhibits and trail-side museums and libraries. Mlle Oddon felt that no material could be translated or copied in Haiti without first being thoroughly adapted to the local Haitian requirements, tested in Haitian schools and adult centres, before being adopted for general use.

Her idea was to equip the Marbial Community Centre for demonstrations and to have these examined and criticized by Haitian educators and artists.

With the help of a young Haitian named Ramponneau (who will later aid in illustrating Creole text-books) she went to work on the project following her arrival in Haiti last March. Using a workshop lent to Unesco by the Art Centre at Port au Prince, she prepared an exhibit including an artistic chart of Creole phonetics, hand-made slides on mosquitoes and malaria, a three dimensional exhibit on food, and a diorama on soil protection.

The exhibit was an immediate success in Port au Prince where such panels and lighting effects were almost unknown. Mlle Oddon has now taken the exhibit to the Unesco Community Centre in Marbial, where she will establish a visual education museum as part of the fundamental education activities in the Pilot Project. Examples of the exhibits will be sent to Rio de Janeiro for the Latin-American Seminar on Literacy Teaching which will be held from July 27 to September 6, and some may also be available in Paris for Unesco's General Conference in September.

## AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

THERE is a joint American and Haitian Food Production Organization in Haiti known as SCIPA (Service coopératif inter-américain de production agricole) which is assuming an important role in the agricultural development of the Republic. This organization is supported financially by the Institute of Inter-American Affairs in Washington and the Haitian Government in Port au Prince.

Pending a decision on the recommendation made by the United Nations Technical Mission for an agricultural development plan embracing the entire Gosseline watershed, SCIPA is carrying on agricultural work in the Marbial Valley. Their technicians have helped to get this year's planting under way. Luckily, the rains began to fall during the middle of March, and the peasants are confident of a fine harvest of beans, corn and egg-plant.

Already, new seeds have been distributed in the Valley and the farmers were so over-joyed to receive them that they agreed to give two days' free work to Unesco as a sign of their gratitude.

SCIPA has attached a Haitian agricultural expert to the project and a demonstration plot and seed nursery have also been set up in the Valley.

The plan is not to be a large-scale, agricultural-engineering scheme, but an effort to help the peasants to raise their own economic level by their own efforts and with their own resources.

## WHO JOINS IN

UNESCO'S sister Agency, the World Health Organization, has now agreed to co-operate with the Haiti Pilot Project and will send in a doctor and a public health nurse to run the public health programme for the Valley.

In a letter to Dr. Torres Bodet, Director-General of Unesco, dated June 1, the Director-General of WHO, Dr. Brock Chisholm, writes: "...concerning WHO participation in this Project, we are now in process of recruiting the medical officer... A tropical nurse to help in the training of Haitian women in domestic and midwifery practices is also in process of recruitement... Budget allotments nave been made for drugs, medical equipment...

"We are glad to have this opportunity to share in such a valuable joint Project."

WHO will use the Unesco educational centre for training medical assistants and for getting the principles of hygiene across to the inhabitants. The aim is to turn the entire Gosseline Valley into a "demonstration area" in tropical hygiene and health education and training. The educational and training aspects are to be handled by Unesco while preventive medicine and tropical hygiene will come under WHO.

An encouraging example of the Haitians' faith in a demonstration cause and remedy was their reaction to a Walt Disney film on hookworm. After seeing the film and realizing why they were suffering from hookworm they immediately agreed to suggestions to build latrines. Now fifty latrine pits have been sunk and are regularly supervised by the Koumbite Co-operative.

But the greatest public health problem of the Valley is yaws. If it could be arranged to pump one "shot" of penicillin, which to-day costs twenty-two cents a dose, into every local inhabitant of Marbial, all cases of this hideous disease, and of other afflictions such as tropical ulcers, could be wiped out practically over night.

**Mlle Oddon, the French museum and library specialist talking with four workers of the Community Centre.**

If Unesco and WHO could train the Haitians to use hypodermics and get the local people to take the injections, the results would be spectacular and might give health education quite a boost in Haiti.

DR. Alfred Métraux, who has directed the Haitian Pilot Project up until last month, is about to return to Europe. He leaves the Marbial experiment to a new Director of Fundamental Education, M. Albert Fernandez Ballesteros, who has just arrived in Haiti. Widely experienced in modern educational methods, an architect, designer and painter, M. Ballesteros has lived and worked for many years in Africa, Mexico, Colombia and Jamaica, where he was able to observe at first hand the difficult life of the peasants. In his native Spain, he has known long years of experience in organizing and running co-operative movements.

In a letter dated May 27, and written to Mr. John Bowers, who has directed Unesco's Fundamental Education Division since its creation, and who steadfastly and courageously maintained his faith in the Pilot Project, Dr. Métraux writes:

"...My sojourn in Haiti is coming to an end. I shall leave Haiti with regret but... with a good director on the job and with the support of the Director-General of Unesco, the Haitian project will not have to remain the burden and the worry it has been for more than two years. The baby will soon walk and will no longer need a solicitous nursemaid."

This, then is the story of the re-birth of a Haitian Valley. Yes, the baby will soon walk. The Project is scheduled to last for five years. At the end of the first, it looked impossible. Now, by the end of the second year, its achievements and future possibilities have been dramatically recognized. The success is a tribute to the peasants of the Valley of Marbial. The project survived because they had faith in it, because they were not afraid to prove that faith in their work despite the scepticism, anguish and set-backs that might have halted them. A Haitian Creole proverb says, "Biê sâ sué pa duré" or "What one gets without pain doesn't last".

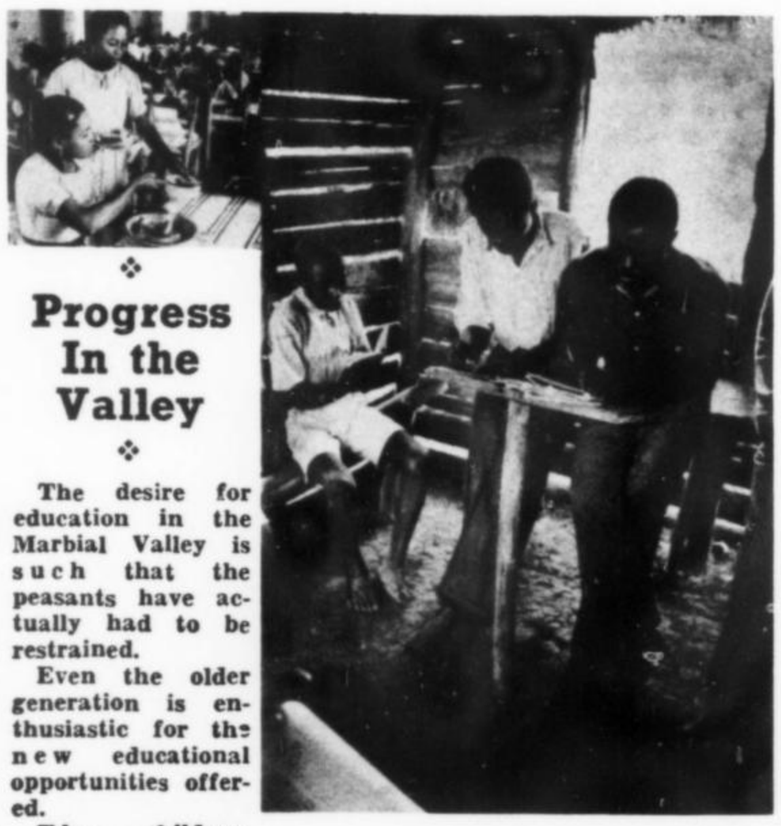
In proving their faith, the people of the Marbial Valley have proved the basic principle of fundamental education—that progress must be made not FOR the people, but BY the people themselves.

## 'OUNESCO' OR 'INESKO'?

IN its report to President Estimé, the United Nations Mission had recommended that the Haitian Government launch an all-out literacy campaign with the teaching of Creole and French, and prepare a series of elementary text-books and readers.

But preparing books and readers in Haitian Creole poses a knotty problem. The fact is that Creole, which is a mixture of ancient French and West African tribal languages has been written in at least four different ways with different alphabets. The orthography and grammar have never been satisfactorily established. This explains why one finds signs and posters, written in Creole, which spell Unesco in different ways. "Ounesco", "Unesco", and even "Inesko" are thus commonly seen.

With the aid of the Rockefeller Foundation, Unesco obtained the services of Dr. Robert Hall, Professor of Romance Languages at Cornell University, and a Creole linguist. Dr. Hall has just completed an intensive study in Haiti of the Creole grammar and orthography. The report on his findings reached Unesco in Paris early in June. He is now at work on a standard alphabet and grammatical system which will be used by a newly-formed team in Haiti to prepare basic school books, primers and reading material in the local Creole.



## Progress In the Valley

**The desire for education in the Marbial Valley is such that the peasants have actually had to be restrained.**

**Even the older generation is enthusiastic for the new educational opportunities offered.**

**The children, formerly apathetic because of chronic malnutrition, have shown a striking change now that they are eating wholesome food.**

# UNESCO REVIEW

## News of World Interest

### LATEST SCHOOL AID : TELEVISION

Television is now being used for the teaching of surgery. Recently an entire operation at a hospital in London was watched by a crowded room of students in another part of the building by means of television.

The use of colour television will also be demonstrated this month at Atlantic City, in the United States, where 12,000 delegates to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association will watch operations being performed in a local hospital in another part of town.

✖

### POETS RECORD OWN WORKS

POETRY lovers can now obtain recordings of some of their favourite poems read by the authors themselves, thanks to the initiative of the Library of Congress in Washington, which has issued a series of five albums of records entitled "Twentieth Century English Language Poets."

In the first series, now on sale to the public, T.S. Eliot, for example, reads, "The Waste Land." Other well-known contemporary poets who have been recorded include W.H. Auden, Louise Bogan, E.E. Cummings, Richard Eberhart, Robinson Jeffers, Allen Tate and William Carlos William.

The Library of Congress, which has equipped a recording laboratory capable of producing normal commercial type records, is issuing a second series of five poetry record albums this year.

A similar plan is also in operation in Brazil where a series of low priced records of the best Brazilian poets has just been put on the market. The first album contains poems by the writer, Manuel Bandeira, and several other celebrated poets have been recorded in subsequent albums.

Some of these poets have become distant and legendary figures to the people who live in the jungles and mountains of Brazil's outlying areas. The recordings will bring close to them the works and personalities of their national writers.

✖

### 'WORLD PEACE' PLAYS URGED BY UNESCO

MORE than two-thousand professional, school and community theatre groups in the United States have been urged by the U.S. National Commission for Unesco to present a series of dramatic performances to help promote world peace, human rights and international understanding.

Miss Rosamond Gilder, Chairman of the National Commission's Panel on Dramatic Art, and Representative of the American National Theatre and Academy, who made the appeal, emphasized that "the whole point and emphasis should be toward expressing the basic Unesco idea in terms of the locality in which the performance takes place."

International understanding could be enhanced, she said, by plays reflecting the life and customs of other nations, music and dance festivals dedicated to the arts of other countries, or original scripts built around the basic tenents of human freedom as set forth in the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights.

✖

### CANADA HELPS CREATIVE ARTISTS

Creative artists in Austria, France, Western Germany, Italy and Ethiopia are to receive badly needed equipment through a grant of 46,000 dollars from the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through Unesco.

The money has been made available for a creative arts project from the 1,055,000 dollars which the Council has raised to help war-devastated countries. It will be used to buy equipment required by painters, sculptors, writers, architects and handcraft workers.

Austria is to receive 10,000 dollars, France 12,000, Western Germany 12,000, Italy 10,000 and Ethiopia 2,000. Ethiopia's grant will be administered by its Department of Education and used for re-establishing folk arts.

### Burma To Join Unesco

The Union of Burma has decided to become a member of Unesco and has instructed its ambassador in London to sign the Constitution of Unesco and to deposit the instrument of acceptance with the British Government.

Switzerland, which became the 46th Member State, on January 28 this year, was the last country to join Unesco.

## 'REPORT TO U. N.'

**"REPORT to the United Nations", a comprehensive account of Unesco's activities and development during 1948 together with details of the Organization's programme of work for 1949, as approved by the General Conference last December, has just been published for submission to the United Nations.**

**In an introduction to the Report, Dr. Torres Bodet, points out that it lays stress on Unesco's work for the re-establishment of international contacts in the fields of education, science and culture.**

**IN conclusion, he writes, "This is what I personally regard as Unesco's ultimate aim : through education, science and culture to bring about true fellowship between all peoples of the world and between all men in each country.**

**"Unesco is thus faced with two equally important obligations : to make each culture understand that it enriches itself by borrowing from others and repaying them with interest from its own finest and rarest creations ; and to bridge the wide gulf between intellectuals and the masses so that a bond of brotherhood may draw them together for the benefit for all."**

**The Report and its 15 annexes cover every aspect of the Organization's work during the past year, financial and administrative facts, information about Unesco's relations with other organizations and details of its 1949 programme. The 176 page report, which constitutes a valuable reference book, will be examined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council at its summer session.**

## *Campaign to Cut Barriers To Education Exchange*

(Continued from page 3)

Under study in Unesco House is a plan to create an inter-Secretariat committee, composed of representatives of the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe, which would join with Unesco in a planning body to co-ordinate and broaden current activities to reduce economic obstacles to the free flow of information.

### International Agreements

AN indication of the importance attached by Unesco to this economic field is the fact that the first two international agreements to be initiated by the Organization fall within this realm.

The first is an Agreement to Facilitate the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural Character. It would free films and similar materials, for educational purposes, from quotas, Customs and import licensing systems. The Dominican Republic has just reportetd its intention to sign the Agreement, which comes into force upon ratification by ten countries.

A similar Agreement to Facilitate the International Circulation of Publications was dispatched recently to Unesco's Member States. It would enable people in each contracting country to purchase books, newspapers and periodicals from abroad under a more liberal system of Customs, quotas and foreign exchange controls.

After discussion of this Agreement at the Fourth Session of the General Conference, in Paris in September, it is expected that a final text will be established for circulation to Member States for signature.

### Extension of Book Coupon Scheme

WHILE these and other proposals move forward through the machinery of international action, Unesco is going ahead with its own unique Book Coupon Scheme. This scheme, which enables "soft currency" countries to purchase books from "hard currency" countries by means of coupons redeemed through a Unesco revolving fund, is rounding out a successful trial period.

An additional $ 250,000 has now been appropriated for the continued operation of the scheme. Producers of scientific equipement and educational films are being sounded out in a number of countries as a first step in extending the scheme to materials other than books.

### Recommendations to Member States

IN a Memorandum to Member States early this year, the Director-General stated the case for reducing economic barriers to the international movement of information materials and put forward ten suggestions. Among these were that Member States should simplify and centralize their own import regulations ; release larger amounts of foreign exchange for educational purchase ; and instruct their representatives at international trade conferences to urge specially favourable treatment for educational, scientific and cultural materials.

"Relaxation of controls for these materials" the Director-General commented, "involves a relatively small imposition on the national economy, by comparison with benefits to be derived in terms of popular enlightenment and scientific advancement."

**Julian BEHRSTOCK.**

## UNESCO IN JAPAN

### A Letter from Nagoya

*To the Editor,*

This is to acknowledge the receipt of three different issues of 'Courier', which you were good enough to send us. I had some of them filed in the library of the Nagoya Association for Cooperation with Unesco and the rest distributed among carefully selected members of the Association, with the request that they be passed on to others when they are finished with.

The publication is deeply appreciated by every member who had opportunity of reading it. It seemed to have impressed them with wide tie with which all members of the Unesco Association are bound.

May I avail myself of this opportunity in informing you some of our recent activities of the Nagoya Association ?

For four days beginning on March 27, this year, the Nagoya Association were the host to thirty-five representatives of the Unesco associations established in upper secondary schools throughout Japan. Thirty more delegates attended this conference from nearby prefectures. The gathering had two objectives : study of the United Nations and the Unesco and the discussion of the future activities of the Unesco associations.

On April 10, lectures and film shown in commemoration of the first anniversary of the Nagoya Association for Cooperation with Unesco was held in conjunction with the inaugural meeting of the Nagoya Chapter of the United Nations Association in Japan.

Another commemorative event was a big-scale Unesco festival taken place at the municipal zoological garden in the hilly outskirts of the city. Features were exhibits of publications and posters, folk dances of all nations, sketch contest of school children, children's talent contest, a concert at which a 'Song for Unesco', composed by the Nagoya Association, was for the first time made public.

Elephants' tricks, duck race and many other attractions were enjoyed by visitors, which averaged 15,000 a day. Altogether 12,000 students of both sexes took turns to act as box office attendants, ushers, stall attendants, prompters and monitors.

Although financially the festival was not much of a success, the cost proving more than we had calculated, we were satisfied that it had tremendous effect of publicity for the Unesco movement...

The Nagoya Association put out the first issue of its organ, "Unesco and You" on April 28.

**Dr Mitsuzo Tsurumi**
Vice President
Nagoya Association
for Cooperation with Unesco.

**May 16, 1949.**

**Japan, which is not a Member of Unesco has formed seventy associations for co-operation with Unesco and 22 Unesco Students Clubs. Above we reproduce poster to publicize Unesco used at Nagoya Unesco Festival, in Japan, last month when elephants (above left) were mobilized to help.**

### Film Festival in Washington

Films from several countries were shown in Washington on May 28 during the second International Film Festival sponsored by the Washington World Affairs Centre. They included two Indian films, "Dances of India" and "Tree of Wealth," a documentary based on the many uses of the coconut tree ; "School in Cologne," a British film on new educational methods in Germany ; and "Songs of Friendship," a U.S. film about songs of different nations.

### Book Coupons Now Obtainable Through Science Co-op Offices

**A number of Unesco Book Coupons are now on sale through Unesco field science co-operation offices. Institutions and individuals in the respective regions interested in obtaining coupons should apply to the following addresses:**

**Latin-America : Dr. A. Establier, Avenida Agraciada 1875, Montevideo, Uruguay;**
**Middle East: Dr. L. Thuriaux, 33, Sh. el Qasr el Ali, Cairo, Egypt;**
**South Asia (including Asia): Dr. A. Wolsky, c/o Delhi University, New Delhi, India;**
**East Asia: Mr. Jan Smid, United Nations Building, 106, Whanpoo Road, Shanghai, China.**

(Photo Ina Bandy)

**Two of the "Vercheny" boys, Dédé (right) aged 11, and Michel, aged 12. When Dédé arrived at the children's association reception centre he was carrying all his worldly treasures --a cat and a parrot cage containing two small birds and a white mouse.**

*THE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE WITH...*

# A French Foreign Legionnaire And Paris 'Dead-End' Kids

IF you travel up the valley of the Drome, in the mountainous Vercors country of southeast France, where the maquis had their strongholds during the Occupation, you will come across a little hamlet called Vercheny.

About a mile away, up on the vine-covered hillside are the ruins of another village, Vercheny-le-Vieux, abandoned a generation ago. The roofs have fallen in, grass grows thickly round the crumbling walls and the village streets are only recognizable as weedy tracks. Within the former dwellings themselves, trees have actually taken root and pushed their trunks and branches upwards through the ceilings and the roofs.

A few months ago, "Old" Vercheny was a deserted "Ghost-town", but today, to the noise of hammering and sawing and the sound of young voices raised in song, it is coming back to life.

Led by a 21-year-old ex-Foreign Legionnaire, a group of Paris youths are working there on what might be termed "Operation New-life". Out of its ruins they are creating a new community to give the chance of a new existence to some of the neglected "dead-end" children of Paris.

When the work is completed, the piles of rubble and jagged walls will have been replaced by new houses, workshops, a school and a sports ground, forming a children's community centre which will provide home life and educational and apprenticeship opportunities for children who were heading for the juvenile court and the reform school.

The project began three years ago as an idea in the mind of Robert Ardouvin, a young French ex-Legionnaire who is directing the work at Vercheny. At that time he was eighteen, practically penniless and earning his living by teaching school and selling newspapers in the Montmartre quarter.

At his pitch in the Place Pigalle he watched life go on around him and saw children who, in order to eat, stole or trafficked on the black market, others whose home lives were non-existent and the homeless ones who, after the last underground train had passed, lay down to sleep on the steps of the stations at Anvers, Pigalle and Barbès

He had read that there were 300,000 French children living in conditions of "moral danger", 60,000 of them in Paris alone and he also knew that most of the efforts made by the authorities were aimed at "re-educating" those who had already committed offences

**Robert Ardouvin, drawn by one of his companions, M. Haffner.**

So, alone, he made up his mind to help those children who had not yet appeared before a judge. He would need, he decided, a team of helpers, preferably young men who had learned from experience the meaning of "conditions of moral danger". He also visualized a home in Paris where the children would spend a short period for rehabilitation and observation and a centre, somewhere in the provinces, far from the temptations of Paris, where the children would live under home-like conditions, be educated and eventually learn a trade of their own choosing.

He decided to look for his "disciples" among the people he was trying to help. Soon, fifteen youths had agreed to help him. To put them to a physical test and get them out of Paris, he took them to work in a lumber camp in the Landes pine forests of southwestern France.

It was a hard life and the pay didn't compare with what they could have made by petty black market activities. Some did in fact give up, but the ones he finally brought back to Paris were physically and morally better than when they had left.

Then for a time his efforts seemed to lead nowhere. But one day, Madame Jean Chauvel, wife of the then French Assistant Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, heard what Robert was trying to do. Soon afterwards, an association, which they decided to call "Friends of the Children of Paris", was formed by Madame Chauvel and other prominent Parisians. Robert was no longer fighting a lone battle.

Madame Georges Vanier, wife of the Canadian Ambassador in Paris, became Honorary President of the Association and thanks to her efforts a generous donation was received from the "France-Canada Committee", this was followed by other gifts.

Finally, in May 1947, a house in the Paris suburb of Montreuil was obtained from a youth hostel association. It had been empty for nearly forty years and was in ruins.

The Ministry of Reconstruction estimated that 1,200,000 francs would be needed to put it in order, but six months later, Robert and his team of helpers had made it habitable at a cost of 75,000 francs, plus a good deal of sweat and aching muscles.

It was a great day for him when the first fifteen children arrived from Paris at the "White House", as it was called because of its clean, newly limed walls. They were not coming to live in "ideal" conditions, but it was at least a great improvement on what they had left behind

They had to be taught many simple things—that meals are eaten off plates and around a tables, that they must wash themselves and brush their teeth daily, that they must go to school regularly and do their homework—all of which they soon accepted as part of their new life. But, above all, they were happy and began to understand what a "home" really meant.

Watching the members of his "family" learning to live together, Robert was happy, but he still didn't know how and where he could set up the country centre for them, so that the Montreuil home could be free to receive fifteen newcomers.

Last June the unexpected happened. Madame Daumas, a property owner in the Drome Valley in southeast France, offered the Association a house and about sixty-seven acres of land near the village of Vercheny (Madame Daunas is now a member of the Association's Executive committee).

Robert went straight down there and, finding the ruined village, decided to rebuild it. Instead of grass-grown ruins, he already saw the neat little houses where "families" of twelve boys and their "parents" would live, the school, the sports ground, and the workshops and model farm, where the boys would begin training for a trade after leaving school.

Two months later, helped by seven other youths, he began to clear the site for the first house. He also began digging into the hillside to catch a spring which would provide the centre with water and also help to improve the supply for Vercheny village.

The villagers have been glad to help the boys, giving them fruits, vegetables and cheese. Two farmers have promised to plough up the land for them.

A few months ago, the rest of the twenty youngsters from Montreuil went down to join them and a new group of youngsters has taken their place. Now that the fine weather has come, the work is being pressed ahead with the assistance of the International Voluntary Service for Peace which has sent down teams of work camp volunteers to give a hand. Three houses have already been fully restored— the first units in what will eventually be a community of two-hundred young people.

So, the third part of Robert's dream is coming true. But he is looking much further ahead. While he works at Vercheny, he is thinking up new projects—an industrial training centre near a large town and more reception centres, at Marseilles and Lyons. He's young enough, he feels, to be able to make long-term plans.

**YOU can help the children of Vercheny and Montreuil who need financial aid, construction materials of all kinds, furniture, bedding, shoes and clothing. Gifts of money should be sent to "Amis des Enfants de Paris": Banque Flury-Hérard, 372 Rue Saint-Honoré, Paris-1er, and gifts in kind to the same Association at 150, Avenue du Président-Wilson, Montreuil (Seine).**

## Birthday in Hungary

**The Hungarian Children's Republic near Budapest will next month celebrate its first anniversary. Serving as a summer home for thousands of children on holiday, the Republic is run entirely by the children themselves.**

**Upper row: Place Pigalle in Paris (left) where the Young Legionnaire, Robert Ardouvin, recruited his first Group of "Dead End" kids to form his Children's Village. The boy, shown at right, walked all night to reach the new Centre at Montreuil.**
**Bottom row: Two of Robert's helpers (left) supervising home lessons. The youth studying alone (centre) has now found a position in a Parisien bank. Right: Happy group of children at the house they helped reconstruct at Montreuil, near Paris.** (Photos by Mme Ina Bandy)

# The Librarians Join Hands

## *A New Venture In World Publication Exchanges*

ON December 1 last year, a serious fire destroyed the libraries of the University of Chile Medical School, burning about half the 15,000 volumes in the main library and most of those in the eight departmental ones.

Among the books lost in the fire were many medical periodicals published in European and other countries whose replacement, especially those now out of print.

Now, however, thanks to an "SOS" published by Unesco in its "Bulletin for Libraries", there is a good chance that libraries in many parts of the world will be able to supply Chile University with many of the missing volumes.

This example of directing help where it is most needed is a good illustration of an important aspect of Unesco's work and demonstrates the useful role which the "Bulletin for Libraries" has filled since it was first published just over two years ago.

### *Existing Resources*

The story of the Libraries Bulletin began even before the official birth of Unesco itself. In 1946, the Preparatory Commission of Unesco set up a preparatory Libraries Section which started an extensive survey of world library needs and resources.

To those carrying out the inquiry it soon became obvious that not withstanding the losses caused by the war, many library needs could be satisfied through existing resources in other countries. The problem, it seemed, was mainly one of informing needy libraries where to look for donors and of indicating to libraries with surplus materials the places where their help would do the good.

The purpose of the publication, it was decided, would be to publicize the needs, offers and exchange invitations of libraries, to give information on important bibliographical and reference works as well as library news of international interest.

Since the first issue appeared in April 1947 the "Bulletin" has been published regularly each month in a bilingual edition (English-French) and has grown in size from twenty-four to forty pages. During the same time its circulation has increased from 4,500 to 7,500 copies, which are sent out free of charge to all parts of the world. To-day, the "Bulletin" has established itself as an integral part of international library communications.

Why has it proved such a successful experiment? The principal reason is that it is filling an important need by acting as a co-ordinating agency to assist libraries reconstruction and to facilitate international library exchanges.

Proof of the "Bulletin's" success has been seen in the hundreds of letters received by Unesco from libraries in all parts of the world, expressing appreciation for the help it provides. To cite but one example, recognition of these services was given recently by the "Schrifttum der Bodenkultur", organ of the "Hochschule fur Bodenkultur" in Vienna. "The Unesco Bulletin for Libraries", said this journal, "one of the few examples of successful and really practical international co-operation, is Unesco's endeavour to encourage libraries of the various countries of the world to improve and enlarge their relations. It deserves the attention of every bibliophile".

The latest issue of the "Bulletin" contains a good cross-section of the type of information welcomed by libraries in all parts of the world. It is divided into five chapters: "News and Information", "Publications Wanted", "Exchange", and "Free Distribution".

Many poignant stories lie behind the information published under the heading of "Publications Wanted". Laghouat, a Sahara desert town in Southern Algeria, for instance, has no educational facilities other than primary schools and the local press. "It is essential" says the Bulletin, "to establish a library and enlarge the vision of this Muslim population which lives as if lost in the sands of the Sahara desert". To start a library, Laghouat's governing authorities are therefore appealing for gifts of books (in the French language) from well-stocked libraries in other parts of the world.

### *Books for Czechoslovakia*

The devastation of war is reflected in an appeal from the University of Thessalonki at Salonika in Greece, for gifts of books. Founded in 1926, it had built up an efficient library before the war, but during the German occupation many of its volumes were lost or pilfered. Now the university is too poor to make good its losses or buy new books.

Post-war economic difficulties which prevent the free international movement of cultural materials such as books are illustrated in a message from the Medical Faculty Library of Palacky University in Czechoslovakia. The library is experiencing insurmountable currency difficulties in its efforts to complete a series of medical and scientific periodicals interrupted during the war years.

Fortunately for libraries such as these there are more favoured ones which are willing to make free gifts of their surplus publications. Even libraries in such war-devastated countries as Austria, France, China and Italy do what they can to help those who have suffered greater losses than themselves.

Through its Clearing House for Libraries, Unesco has been offering for free distribution thousands of books and periodicals and each month the "Bulletin" lists many of these offers.

In the March issue for instance, the offers included books on religion, fiction, various periodicals, and a large selection of reprints from medical periodicals. More of these medical reprints were offered in the April "Bulletin".

### *Sophocles and Xenophon*

The offers published in the May issue cover Greek and Latin text-books which can be obtained free of charge on application to Unesco's Clearing House for Libraries. These text-books include works by Homer, Plato, Sophocles and Xenophon in the Greek Section and Latin text-books ranging from elementary grammars to H. Hardinge's book, "Julius Caesar, Soldier, Statesman, Emperor."

The May issue also lists exchange offers from thirteen countries. A French oceanographic station in Indo-China, for example, offers to exchange technical memoranda publications, but stipulates that it must receive "really valuable scientific manuals" in return, as its archives have been seriously depleted during fighting in the area.

Some of the requests and offers would certainly mean little to the average reader but they are of vital importance to libraries and librarians in many parts of the world, who are trying to overcome the effects of the cultural "blackout" of the war years. And what is still more important they are a sign that libraries are living again, nourished by the renewed flow of information, restored contacts and mutual assistance.

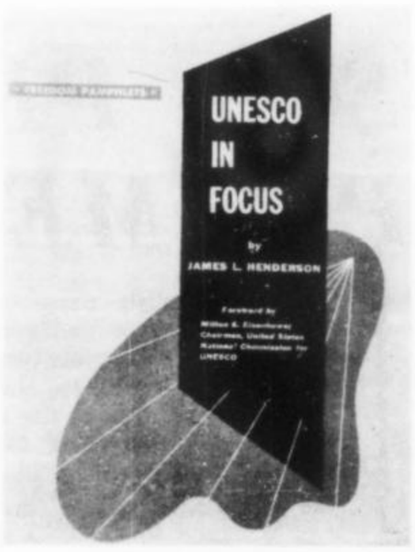
Later this year Unesco's Libraries Division will publish a handbook in international publication exchanges, the first of its kind ever to appear. Listing exchange offers by subject field, the handbook will serve as a useful reference work for use by libraries in their search for books.

It is this world-wide network of library communications which Unesco is working to maintain and develop, and in its fight one of the most vital weapons is the "Bulletin for Libraries."

## UNESCO BOOK SHELF

"UNESCO in Focus" by James L. Henderson, lecturer at the University of London, is a recent pamphlet in the Freedom Pamphlets Series published by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"Unesco in Focus" describes the history and evaluates the prospects of success of the UN educational organization dedicated to "constructing the defenses of peace in the minds of men". In a foreword to the pamphlet, Milton Eisenhower, Chairman of the U.S. National Commission for Unesco, terms it a major contribution to the literature about Unesco.




"If our world is not to be the tomb of an atom-wrecked civilization", declares Mr. Henderson, "a fair share of us on the globe must achieve that mutual understanding and respect by which an international society transcending all national or group differences can become a reality. Unesco is the best answer man has yet devised to this life-and-death problem".

"Unesco cannot function in a vacuum", says Mr. Henderson, "but can achieve its goals only if people the world over cultivate the art of human relationships and develop attitudes that will hurdle the barriers of class, religion, race and nationalism".

With a view toward attaining these goals, Mr. Henderson points out, Unesco has embarked upon a bold global program, which calls among other things for: educational reconstruction in war-devasted nations; advancement of education in areas where it has hitherto lagged; promotion of cultural exchange in the arts and sciences; furtherance of free and universal communication of ideas and the study of individual and group tensions.

Discussing the basic elements of international amity, Mr. Henderson says the foundations must be laid early—in the school and family—and developed through adult life by various projects which will evoke a sympathetic attitude toward co-operation among peoples of the world. Mr. Henderson cites some specific examples: pen friendships among children of different nations; student exchanges; and international relations clubs to help dissolve the barriers to international understanding.

"Unesco", says Mr. Henderson, "is the organized symbol through which we can combat prejudice and ignorance. It needs and deserves the support of the citizenry of the world".

"Unesco in Focus" is available at twenty-five cents a copy from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 212 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York.

### *Recent Publications*

**STUDY ABROAD.** International Handbook, Fellowships, Scholarships Educational Exchange. Supplement to Volume I, 1948, Fr. Frs 120 or $ 0.40 or 2s.

**INTERNATIONAL YEARBOOK OF EDUCATION 1948.** Edited by the International Bureau of Education in cooperation with Unesco. Fr. Frs 700 or $ 3.00 or 13s6.

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON TECHNICAL NEEDS** in Press, Film, Radio, 1948. 308 pp. Fr. Frs 350 or $ 1.20 or 6s.

**THE BOOK OF NEEDS** in Education, Science and Culture of War-Devastated Countries. Vol. II, 1949. 140 pp. ill. Fr. Frs 300 or $ 1.30 or 6$6.

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**Argentina:** Editorial Sudamericana S.A., Alsina 500, Buenos-Aires.
**Australia:** H. A. Goddard Ltd. 255a, George St., Sydney.
**Belgium.** — Librairie encyclopedique, 7, rue du Luxembourg, Bruxelles IV.
**Canada:** The Ryerson Press, 299 Queen St. West, Toronto.
**Cuba:** La Casa Belga, R. de Smedt O'Reilly, Habana.
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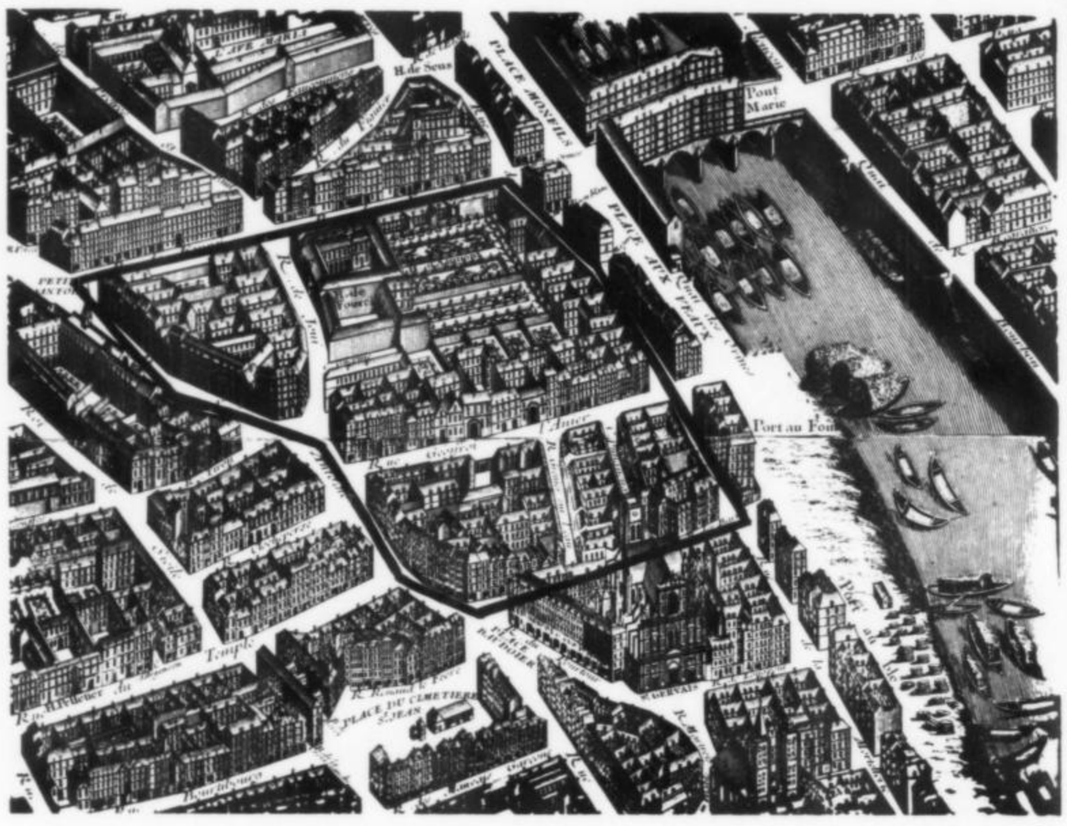
# WORLD 'CITÉ DES ARTS'
## *TO BE CREATED*
# In Heart of Paris



**A 17th century map of Paris showing (bottom) the church of St. Gervais, the River Seine and (top right) the Isle of St. Louis. Outlined in black is the central sector of the area the Paris City Council plans to reconstruct. The Cité des Arts will occupy the upper right hand block.**

IN the seventeenth century, the part of Paris lying between the churches of Saint Gervais and Saint Paul was a rich and prosperous quarter containing many fine buildings. Situated on the right bank of the Seine, close to the Islands of La Cite and Saint Louis where Paris was founded, it was also the scene of many important historical events.

But, time and history have changed its aspect. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries many of the stately buildings were transformed into apartment houses and, under a slum clearance plan put into operation during the Second World War, dozens of houses were torn down.

Before the war ended, however, architects had begun to draw up plans for the preservation and re-adaptation of the remaining buildings for modern needs and the construction of new ones so as to house some 5.000 people—about half as many as had previously lived there.

Until recently, however, only a small part of these plans had been carried out because funds were lacking.

Now, thanks to an idea put forward by a Finnish painter, M. Eero de Snellman it is hoped to begin work shortly on the restoration of the central sector of the area to its former architectural beauty.

M. de Snellman's idea was for the creation, partly out of existing buildings, of an international "City of the Arts" to which painters, sculptors, musicians, engravers and other artists would come from all parts of the world to work and study in a unique setting.

Paris already has its international *Cité Universitaire* which comprises nineteen national students houses. The statutes of the new centre will be similar to those of the University City except that it will welcome both mature artists and art students.

The scheme is being directed by a committee set up in France under the patronage of the Academy of Fine Arts and the City of Paris. Similar committees have been formed in other parts of the world, principally in Scandinavian countries, with the aim of raising capital for the project which, it is estimated, will cost about one-thousand million francs.

This sum is to be split into two-hundred shares of five million francs each, representing the cost of building and furnishing a studio or workshop with its own flat and will allow for each contributing country to share in the cost of restoring a former mansion for use as a "City Hall".

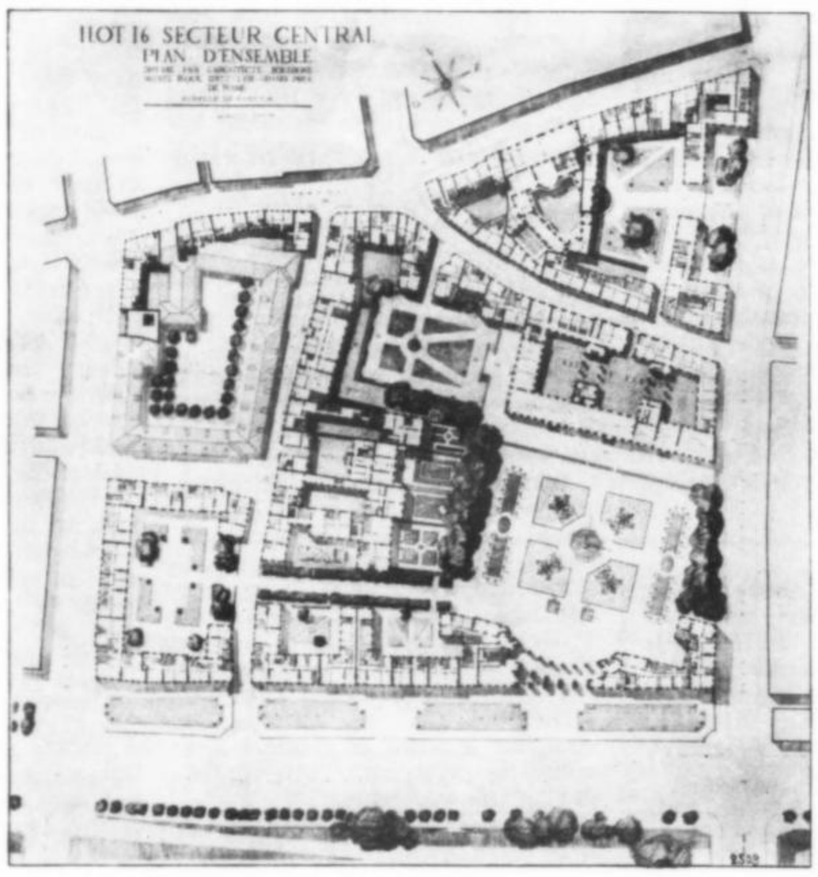
In this way, a country subscribing twenty-million francs will be allocated four studios together with flats to which it may send its artists.

The Cité des Arts will, therefore, go a long way towards solving the problem facing many artists from abroad who at present have great difficulty in finding accommodations in Paris, owing to the serious housing shortage.

M. Michel Roux-Spitz, a leading Paris architect who has drawn up the plans for the Centre, estimates that between two-hundred and two-hundred and twenty studios and workshops, each having its own apartment of from two to five rooms, can be provided. The larger apartments will be for those "students" who decide to bring their families with them and will be furnished and decorated in a simple but attractive way.

The architectural design of the Cité will harmonize with its seventeenth century surroundings and the construction will embody as much as possible the traces of the past—foundations of former buildings and the mouldings and figures that have been salvaged from them.

As part of the original reconstruction scheme two entire houses of the Louis XVI period and a third from an earlier period were taken down stone by stone, numbered and piled for future use. These three houses will be rebuilt exactly as they stood two-hundred years ago and will become the studios and homes of the artists.




**The reconstruction plan of the area outlined in the map above. The Cité des Arts will cover the largest of the four blocks with (top, right) the Hotel d'Aumont and its gardens. Artists' flats and common rooms (bottom) look out over the Seine.**

There will, however, be no attempt at standardization. In following the form of the original buildings, the architects have been able to plan varying types of studios.

Generally speaking, sculptors will have their workshops on the ground floors of buildings so that blocks of stone and other heavy working materials can be delivered to them easily.

Painters, as far as possible, will be given studios facing the north, on the first and second floors. Other studios and workshops are planned for engravers and architects.

On some of the ground floors it is intended to install book, art and antique shops to serve the needs of the Cité.

The administrative headquarters of the Centre will be housed in the historic Hotel d'Aumont, built for the Duke d'Aumont by the famous seventeenth century architects, Le Vau and François Mansart.

At the time of the French Revolution the house was bought by a contractor who later sold many of its furnishings, the paintings on the ceilings and even the staircases. Finally, it became part of a pharmaceutical factory, but in 1936 it was bought by the City of Paris authorities who wished to preserve and restore it.

Work has already begun on its restoration and a giant wooden "umbrella" has been built to protect it from further damage by the weather.

In its completed form the new "City Hall" will comprise an exhibition hall for paintings, engravings and other art works, an art library, administrative offices and accommodations for the Director of the Centre.

The huge cellars with their vaulted ceilings which were formerly the kitchens, will become a lounge and concert room.

The whole will constitute a sort of International Cultural Centre where artists from many countries will be able to hold exhibitions of their work and compare ideas and techniques.

Eventually it is hoped to extend the Hotel d'Aumont by adding a new wing on the west side. This did not previously exist but the architects believe that it formed part of the plans of the original builders, and was never completed because of insufficient money.

Originally the hotel had its own gardens, but these have long since disappeared. It is intended to lay out new ones following the lines of the former ones and to plant trees along each side.

On the south side of the Cité, bordering the Seine, an entirely new building will be constructed with a series of archways allowing an unrestricted view over the river towards the Isle of Saint Louis and at the same time enabling the passer-by to see the gardens of the Cité and the façade of the restored Hotel d'Aumont.

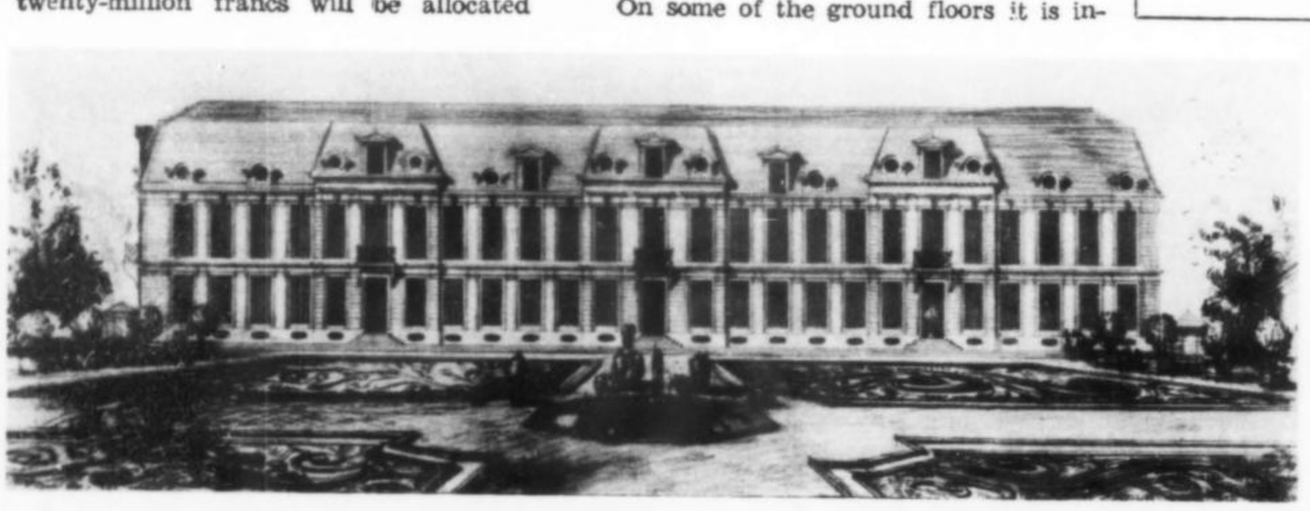
This building will contain a restaurant, lounges, lecture rooms and a number of guest rooms, the whole fronted on the riverside by a long terrace.

The final form of the Cité will be that of a hollow square with gardens, squares and trees in the centre and the studios and apartments round three sides. Most of the fourth side will be open to view from the street, but enclosed by railings.

Completely self-contained, the Cité will have a single entrance on the north side and will be far enough away from the main streams of traffic to ensure the calm and quiet required for creative work.

The construction of the Cité has been embodied in the general plan for rehabilitating this part of Paris, and has, therefore, the support of the Paris City Council. Recently the Council approved the granting of a ninety-nine year lease on the ground for the project, and the French State Council is drawing up and approving the statutes.

Promises of financial support have been obtained from several countries and it is expected that work on the world's first international City of Arts will soon be under way.



**The Façade of the Hotel d'Aumont, future headquarters of the Cité, as it will appear when reconstructed**

# *UNESCO PREPARES CHOPIN 'MEMORIAL'*

THE great Polish composer, Frederic Chopin, used to hold Parisian audiences spellbound when he played his compositions at the Salle du Conservatoire.

Next September, on the occasion of the centenary of his death, an audience in the same hall will hear the performance of a "musical memorial" for Chopin which Unesco has initiated.

So far, seven leading composers have agreed to collaborate in the preparation of the "memorial" which will take the form of a collection of short works which Unesco has asked the composers to write.

The composers are free to choose the form and type of work, but the duration of performance of each composition must not exceed fifteen minutes and the number of performers, either instrumental or vocal, which it will require must not be more than five.

The "homage to Chopin" compositions will be performed publicly by leading artists for the first time at the Paris concert next September and it is also hoped to broadcast them.

The composers who have so far agreed to collaborate in the preparation of the tribute are: Heitor Villa-Lobos, Brazil; Florent Schmitt, France; Francisco Malipiero, Italy; Jacques Ibert, France; Howard Hanson, the United States and Carlos Chavez, Mexico.

The centenary will also be marked by the granting of two fellowships in compositions for Polish students to enable them to come to Paris and study at the Conservatoire.

The money for these fellowships has been provided through Unesco by the International Music Fund set up by the American Section of the International Society of Contemporary Music (ISCM) to aid composers and composers' societies in Europe.

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